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Aloni's scathing memoirs tell all

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The maxi makes a comeback

Bazaar, Page 8

Natan Zach - a 'graveyard poet'

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A Palestinian rioter (right) is hit with a rubber bullet just after throwing a rock in Hebron's casbah yesterday. (Bryan McBurney)

32 Hebron rioters wounded

By JON IMMANUEL

The funeral of one of the three Palestinians killed in clashes with soldiers and settlers in Hebron on Tuesday sparked fresh clashes between Palestinians and soldiers there yesterday. Palestinian sources reported 32 wounded, including two seriously, from rubber bullets and tear gas.

Nader Saed, 24, died Tuesday after he was struck in the eye by a rubber bullet fired by a soldier at close range, after rioters threw stones and firebombs at troops. This followed the shooting death of a man by one of two yeshiva students, who said the man had thrown a bottle at them containing "a burning chemical substance."

Women at the funeral shouted "Izzadine," the name of Hamas's military wing. Others shouted "Revenge." Palestinian policemen also attended the funeral and fired in the air as Saed, his body covered in a Palestinian flag, was buried.

However, the Palestinian police also helped to prevent yesterday's clashes from getting out of hand, when hundreds tried to cross the line between H-1 (under Palestinian control) into H-2 (under IDF control). Soldiers were hit by rocks, and firebombs reached the gates of the Jewish quarter at the north end of Shuhada Street.

Following the same procedures they did during riots in Hebron last month, an inadequate cordon of Palestinian policemen linked arms across the street, after which rioters broke through and were dragged back. Finally trucks backed down the street, forcing the rioters back. Palestinian Preventive Security (PPS) forces climbed onto roofs to bring down youths hoping to hit soldiers with stones from slingshots.

PPS chief Jibril Rajoub told Channel 1 news that, "Without progress in a political direction there will be no [security] coordination." However, he also said police would take unilateral action to protect the peace in

the area where they are responsible for security.

There were contacts between the two sides' security forces, based on an understanding that the Palestinian Police would prevent protesters getting close to soldiers, if the IDF used only rubber bullets and tear gas.

The IDF said two border policemen were slightly wounded by stones thrown across the dividing line.

The two yeshiva students whose shooting sparked Tuesday's rioting were released yesterday on NIS 20,000 bail and ordered to stay out of Hebron for two months.

Last night, a settler was detained by police near Ramallah after he fired shots into the air. The man told police he was run off the road and stoned by a mob of Palestinians before being rescued by Israeli soldiers.

Palestinians at the scene said the firing was unprovoked. Dozens of settlers protested outside the police station where the man was being questioned.

Clinton willing to meet PA negotiators

Abbas, Erekat arrive in DC today

By HILLEL KUTTNER, JON IMMANUEL, and LIAT COLLINS

Palestinian negotiators Saeb Erekat and Mahmoud Abbas are due to arrive in Washington today to meet with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and special Middle East coordinator Dennis Ross, in what the US views as the next step in its attempt to restart Israeli-Palestinian negotiations.

President Bill Clinton is willing to meet with the Palestinian negotiators, the White House said yesterday. This could indicate he plans to assume a higher profile in the negotiations; it is highly unusual for a US president to meet alone with negotiators, as opposed to heads of government or foreign ministers.

"There is nothing scheduled at this time, but the president has indicated his willingness [to meet] should his participation be necessary," White House spokesman Mike McCurry told reporters.

The meetings with the Palestinians are to cover the proposals discussed here Monday between Clinton and Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, which centered on proceeding now to the final-status negotiations. PA Higher Education Minister Hanan Ashrawi had already met with Ross on Tuesday.

The meetings will be "very much an extension of the talks that the president and the secretary of state had with Prime Minister Netanyahu earlier this week," State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

"We presented Prime Minister Netanyahu with specific ideas. We will present the Palestinian delegation with specific American ideas to resurrect the peace negotiations and to try to reestablish in the Israeli-Palestinian dynamic an element of trust which, of course, is necessary for the foundation of that."

Following the Abbas-Erekat

visit, the US is expected to decide whether to dispatch Albright or Ross to the region. US and Israeli officials said here they expect Ross to visit next week. McCurry denied reports that Albright had already decided to visit the region.

Mordechai PA unwilling to foil terrorism, Page 2
PM: No peace without US involvement, Page 4

Albright was engaged yesterday in what Burns described as intensive diplomacy, calling King Hussein as well as the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Qatar, and Tunisia to consult on the current state of affairs and get their feedback.

Also yesterday, Clinton met briefly with Leah Rabin and her son, Yuval. She is currently on a US tour to promote her new book.

Before leaving last night, Abbas and Erekat met in Gaza with Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat and close aides. Arafat aide Nabil Abu Rudeineh held out hopes for progress, but said the Palestinian delegation would not offer proposals of its own, only listen to US proposals.

"Everything has to be discussed and if there is anything reasonable we will discuss it," Abu Rudeineh said. At the core of the US suggestion is expected to be a call to end the violence and stop the building on Har Homa, an equadon the Palestinians favor, but Israel opposes. But the Palestinians may accept less for closer US involvement. After meeting with Netanyahu, Clinton dismissed the possibility of a Camp David-style summit now, saying that, at this point, substance is more important than form.

However, the promise of a US proposal to break the deadlock is

precisely the kind of acove outside intervention the Palestinians have been seeking, which may enable them to compromise on matters of substance.

"We want the Americans to be involved," Abu Rudeineh said. "The Palestinians have no demands other than implementation of the Oslo agreement. We are not against arbitration. Let the Americans decide what we should do."

He believes the US would not take an automatic pro-Israel position. "The problem is not an Israeli-Palestinian crisis but a regional crisis. That's why I think the Americans are worried," he said.

Abu Rudeineh said that Netanyahu's charges that the PLO had failed to revoke its anti-Israel charter had to be a joke for Clinton. "Before we offered the resolution to the PNC [Palestine National Council], it was discussed and accepted by the US and Israeli governments," he said.

Arafat met on Tuesday in Gaza with General Security Service chief Ami Ayalon and officials of the CIA, according to government sources quoted by Channel 1 last night. Arafat was asked to restore security cooperation with Israel to prevent further Israeli-Palestinian violence.

"The PLO security chiefs in the West Bank and Gaza Strip who attended the meeting refused to restore security cooperation until political contacts at all levels, including peace talks, were resumed by Israel," a PA official told Reuters last night.

OC Intelligence Maj.-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon said yesterday that the PA has arrested, but not tried, the terror cell involved in the failed attacks in Netzarim and Kfar Darom last week. Ya'alon was addressing the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee.

Continued on Page 2

Mossad official to head TAU's Jaffee Center

By STEVE RODAN

A senior Mossad official has been named to head Tel Aviv University's Jaffee Center for Strategic Studies, *The Jerusalem Post* has learned.

Uzi Arad, who has held several key positions in the Mossad, in October will take over as the replacement for Jaffee director Ze'ev Maoz, who has been in the post for nearly three years.

Tel Aviv University administrators refused to confirm the appointment, an announcement of which is not expected until after Independence Day.

Tel Aviv University sources close to the Jaffee Center said the appointment of Arad is an attempt to return to the high-profile status the center enjoyed under the leadership of its late founder, Aharon Yariv, a former chief of Military Intelligence. With Yariv at the helm, the center became known as the home of generals-turned-academics

who wrote numerous policy studies.

Under Maoz, a prominent strategist who taught at Haifa and New York universities before coming to Jaffee, the center sought a more academic approach.

Maoz stressed solid research over the policy recommendations that had brought the center praise as well as criticism in the late 1980s, when in one of its major studies it advocated the establishment of a Palestinian state.

Maoz's academic approach, however, did not appeal to many of Jaffee's researchers. At one point, the center had only two researchers, down from eight, as many left to take up posts at other institutions.

The result has been that, while the center held prominent conferences, it has hardly published any studies in the past year. Its most important study, *The Middle East Military Balance*, was delayed for nearly a year.

Maoz, university sources said, plans on taking a sabbatical. They stressed that administrators, including Tel Aviv University president Yoram Dinstein, are pleased with his work and did not put pressure on him to leave.

Short of shelf space? 'Judaica' on CD-ROM

By JUDY SIEGEL

The 15 million words in the authoritative *Encyclopedia Judaica* have been transformed into a multi-media bonanza on CD-ROM, which adds sound, video, and photos to an updated version of the 16 printed volumes, eight yearbooks, and two decennial volumes.

Judaica Multimedia (Israel) Ltd., a Jerusalem company established in 1995, has produced the \$599 computer disc and plans to update it regularly, and translate it eventually into Hebrew, French, German, and Spanish.

"We regard ourselves as the *Britannica* of the Jewish world," said Gary Liebler, *Judaica Multimedia's* 31-year-old managing director and chief executive

officer, at a Jerusalem press conference yesterday. "A prominent Hebrew University professor who saw the disc said it's a 'turning point in Jewish education.'"

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Geoffrey Wigoder, who was editor-in-chief of the printed edition, which was published in 1972, serves as disc editor.

The company has just signed a deal with Groliers, a major American multimedia firm, which will distribute the PC-compatible CD-ROM among public libraries and universities throughout the US.

A feature on the new *Encyclopedia Judaica CD-ROM* will appear on the *Science & Technology Page* on Sunday, April 20.

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NEWS

in brief

Israel Theater prizes awarded

The Geshur theater production of *Kfar*, by Yehoshua Sobol, was named best play at the Israel Theater Prize awards ceremony last night at the Noga Theater in Jaffa.

The play also garnered the awards for best actor, Israel Demidov, and best director, Yevgeny Arye. Gitta Munte won the best actress award for her role in the Khan Theater production of *Ana Galactia*, and for the second year in a row Shmuel Hasfari was named best playwright, this time for *Shiva*. *Helen Kaye*



Yehoshua Sobol (Keren)

Fatah wins Bir Zeit student elections

Students affiliated with Yasser Arafat's Fatah movement narrowly defeated Hamas on Wednesday night in student council elections at Bir Zeit University.

Returning to power after last year's Hamas win, Fatah won 22 seats to Hamas's 20, university officials said. Abir Attalla, a 24-year-old economics student and Fatah supporter, said last year's Hamas victory had more to do with internal Fatah problems on campus than the political situation.

"We have proven that despite difficulties Fatah is always the answer and will continue to lead the campus," he said. *Reuter*

Bid to ban Bar-On, Hoter-Yishai from panel

The Movement for Quality Government in Israel yesterday asked former Supreme Court justice Meir Shamgar, who heads a panel on finding a new way to appoint the attorney-general, to prevent attorneys Dror Hoter-Yishai and Roni Bar-On from appearing before the committee.

"It is not imaginable that the two main suspects in the Bar-On Affair would appear before the honorable committee," the group said in its request. The group also noted that Bar-On and Hoter-Yishai were both questioned in the Bar-On Affair probe, and would appear to have a personal interest in the continuation of the old system of attorney-general selection. *Irta*

Four SLA men wounded in South Lebanon

Lebanese guerrillas set off a roadside bomb yesterday as SLA soldiers were passing in southern Lebanon, wounding four, Lebanese security officials said.

They said the bomb was detonated by remote control as a patrol was moving on a dirt road near the village of Qantara. The village is 5 km from the Galilee Panhandle.

Two wounded militiamen were airlifted by an Israeli helicopter to Israel for treatment, and the other two were taken to a hospital in Marjayoun, they said. *AP*

Mordechai: PA helps prevent unrest, but not terrorism

By STEVE RODAN

The Palestinian Authority is demonstrating some willingness to help quell civil unrest in the territories, but maintains its refusal to cooperate with Israel to foil terrorism, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai said yesterday.

The result, Mordechai said, is that the IDF and security services have stepped up their efforts to prevent Islamic terrorist attempts to launch attacks within Israel.

"On the Palestinian side, there isn't a significant change in cooperation to foil terror," Mordechai told reporters following a meeting with security officials and senior IDF commanders on the growing violence

in the territories. "There is reasonable cooperation between the Palestinian Police and the IDF in the field. I am demanding that the PA operate in all areas to restore the situation to what it had been formerly."

Mordechai said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will convene a meeting next week to discuss the resumption of negotiations with the PA. The defense minister said these preparations must be accompanied by a PA decision to resume its efforts against Palestinian terrorism.

"Our strategic decision is to continue the peace process," Mordechai said. "We have to find new versions to continue this process." Mordechai and senior IDF commanders agreed that the army must contin-

ue with what some of them termed "the soft approach" to Palestinian violence in the territories. The commanders described the violence as being orchestrated by the PA around the territories.

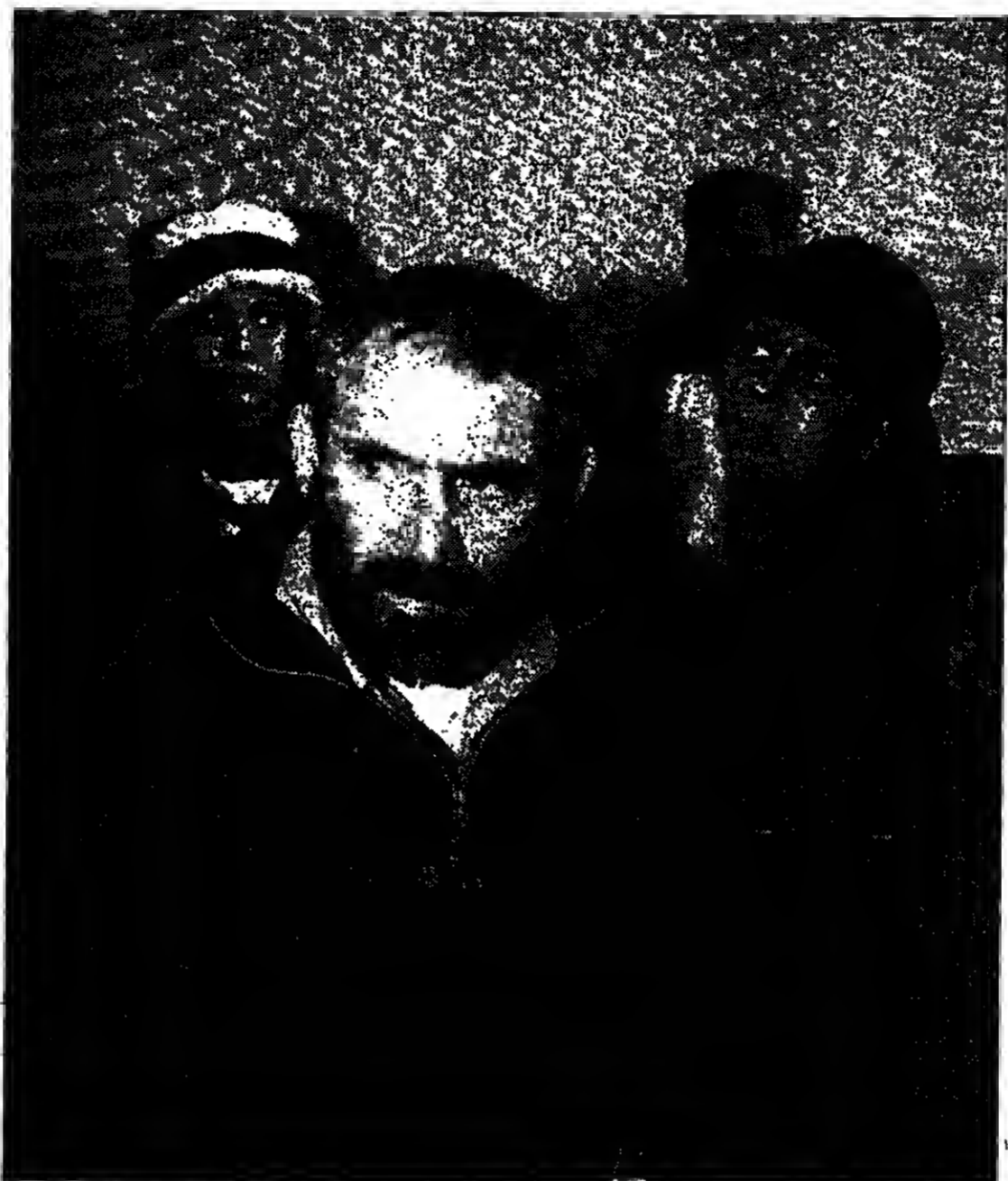
OC Central Command Maj-Gen. Uzi Dayan rejected reports that IDF field commanders are complaining that the soft approach to Palestinian violence is endangering their troops.

"We are continuing to foil violence," Dayan said. "I advise that in this situation we operate quietly." Security officials said the IDF will continue to maintain a reinforced presence in the territories to maintain key roads free of violence and ensure life in and around Jewish settlements, particularly

Hebron. At the same time, they said, Israel will seek to ease restrictions of the Israeli closure as a means to avoid increasing pressure within Palestinian society.

Officials said their concern is that Islamic groups such as Hamas and opposition groups such as Islamic Jihad will step up efforts to carry out terrorist attacks during the absence of PA Chairman Yasser Arafat. They said the PA Chairman Yasser Arafat, together with General Security Service, together with the IDF and police, have managed to foil terrorist attempts to attack Israeli targets over the last two weeks, but did not elaborate.

The officials said they do not have information of concrete plans by the PA's Islamic opposition to launch terrorist attacks.



Dolev resident Yossi Levy appears yesterday in Jerusalem Magistrate's Court, where he was remanded on suspicion of shooting a Palestinian youth in Harbata on Monday. (Brian Herzog)

Dolev man remanded for two days in shooting

Dolev resident Yossi Levy, held on suspicion of shooting and seriously wounding an Arab man after his car was stoned on Monday, was remanded for two days yesterday by Jerusalem Magistrate's Court.

Police had asked Judge Ya'acov Tzaban to remand Levy, a reserve captain, for eight days, but Tzaban said another day or two should be enough to complete the investigation.

The judge said the question in the case is what amount of force is necessary in responding to rock throwing at passing cars.

Police said the suspect was driving through an Arab village, Harbata, and as a result of stonethrowing opened fired in two instances. The first incident

was next to a school, which was closed on Monday, and then again at the exit of the village. The first time he shot six bullets from his car; the second he got out of his car and shot four more bullets down an alleyway. As a result of the shootings, Riyad Hamuda, 18, was seriously wounded.

Police said they need eight days to reenact the shootings, in coordination with the Palestinians, and to interview Hamuda, who is in the hospital in Ramallah.

According to police, Levy did not shoot out of self-defense, which is evident in the fact that Hamuda was shot in the back.

The police investigator said an indictment will likely be filed in a few days.

Levy was arrested when police came to his Dolev home a few hours after the shooting after spotting his car with damage from rocks and bullets. Spent cartridges from an M-16 rifle were also found in the car.

Levy's attorney said there is no need to continue to detain his client, since he had already told police everything he could about the incident. Moreover, he said, this is a clear case of self-defense.

Residents of Harbata claim Levy drove into the village and started firing, and that Hamuda had nothing to do with the stonethrowing. Several residents said Levy frequently drove through the village, instead of taking the bypass road. (Ilim)

COMMENT

Placing the blame

By JON IMMANUEL

The controversy over who carried out two suicide-bombing attempts in Gaza last week will not be laid to rest after OC Military Intelligence Maj-Gen. Moshe Ya'alon announced yesterday that the Palestinian Police has arrested two of the organizers.

Will they be quickly tried and sentenced as Israeli intelligence collaborators or as bona fide Islamic Jihad leaders? The answer is important, because most Palestinians believe Israel staged both attacks to make the Palestinians look bad.

From eyewitnesses who said a rocket was fired from an Israeli jeep at one of the men who exploded, to officials who said two Jabalya youths were duped by Israeli agents, to journalists who said two genuine failed suicide bombings in one day were too improbable - the two incidents have given suicide bombings a bad name.

The unwillingness of Hamas and Islamic Jihad to take responsibility may have something to do with the fact that they failed to kill Israelis, but it also seems to indicate that on the official level there was an understanding that suicide bombings were not part of any green light.

Despite the fact that Palestinian public opinion is so outraged by current Israeli policy that in polls close to a majority justify such attacks on moral grounds, it seems to be in no organization's political interest to carry them out. Both Islamic Jihad and Hamas leaders have said that suicide bombings can no longer serve the anti-Oslo cause and may even revive it by justifying a PA crackdown on Islamic radicals, which will establish the conditions for renewed talks.

What they want is a simmering tension that can break into spontaneous mass violence, for which no one can be held individually responsible, but for which Israel will blame Arafat and from which only Islamic radicalism will benefit.

It is then of crucial importance to Arafat to place the blame where it will do him the most political good. This means finding that the perpetrators were both Islamic Jihad operatives and Israeli agents. It won't be the first time. The two were linked after the January 1995 Beit Lid massacre that killed 21 Israelis. It may be a lie, but it is the only way in today's volatile political situation that he can justify to his people cracking down on what would otherwise be a popular activity.

Proposed law would set regulations for parole

By Jerusalem Post Staff

Prisoners sentenced to short terms, or first-time offenders sentenced to between one and five years' imprisonment, could be freed automatically after serving two-thirds of their sentence under a proposed law being circulated by Justice Minister Tzahi Hanegbi among ministers, judges, and academics.

Such prisoners would only have to appear before a parole board if the State Attorney's Office insisted on such a bearing, because it believed the prisoner still constituted a threat to society.

Under the proposal, a special parole committee would have the authority to commute a life sentence to a specified time of no less than 30 years, assuming the prisoner has already served seven years.

The special committee could also release a prisoner whose life sentence had been shortened after two-thirds of the shortened sentence had passed, assuming the prisoner no longer poses a danger.

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son of the late Yechiel Meir Pik ע"ה

The funeral will take place today, Thursday, April 10, 1997 (3 Nisan 5757) at 2 p.m. at the Kfar Nahman Cemetery, Ra'anana. Shiva at the home of his son, Robert Pik, 24 Ha'alon, Kiryat Ganim, Ra'anana.

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Daughter: Vivian Pik
Son: Robert and Jill Pik
Brother: Monyek (Morris) Pik
Sister: Helen Zames
grandchildren and great-grandchildren

CLINTON
Continued from Page 1

According to an official briefing, the PA is not hitting at the terror infrastructure in the

autonomous areas, but takes intensive and efficient measures against planned attacks when it learns of them.

Ya'alon said Arafat is not acting against the terror infrastructure, both because it could cause a bloodbath among the Palestinians and because he wants to keep the option of violence open in case the diplomatic process does not lead to what he sees as desired results.

He is using a carrot-and-stick policy with the rejectionist Palestinian groups alternately detaining and releasing their activists, Ya'aloo said. Ya'aloo also said Arafat has not done anything to stop those groups that believed they had been given a "green light" for violence. The rejectionist groups continue to build up a store of arms and explosives, he said.

Ya'aloo said that, as long as Israel pursues a policy perceived by the Palestinians as preventing their achieving a Palestinian state - such as building in Jerusalem and the territories - they will see it as a provocation, even though these moves do not contravene the Oslo Accords.

He noted that the violence in response to the opening of the Western Wall Tunnel exit in September strengthened Arafat's

standing in the Arab world and in much of the international community.

Committee chairman Uzi Landau (Likud) concurred, saying Arafat continues to be encouraged by countries like Egypt and Syria. "And, unfortunately, as long as countries like the US aren't sufficiently firm in their demands that Arafat end terror, he will continue to use it."

Ori Orr (Labor) said, however, that the government "must realize that in Arafat's eyes the building in settlements and Har Homa is considered an act of violence and therefore the two sides must talk to each other."

Molelet leader Rehavam Ze'evi said the yeshiva students in Hebron who shot at Arabs who allegedly attacked them should be an example to others.

"If more Israelis were to act like that in more places in Judea and Samaria, the intifada would look different and perhaps no longer exist," Ze'evi said.

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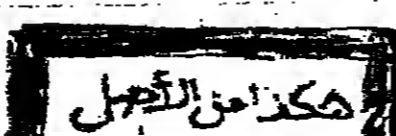
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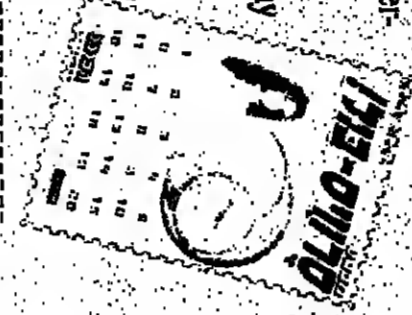
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me time, they said, were restrictions of the Israeli society.

concern is that Israel's step up efforts to arrest Hamas during the absence of Yasser Arafat. They said the Service, together with police, have managed to capture several Hamas militants to attack Israeli targets weeks, but did not disclose.

id they do not have any plans by the PA's leadership to attack terrorist attacks.

blame

the fact that Palestinian opinion is so outraged by Israeli policy that in no way to a majority justify on moral grounds, it would be no organizations' policy to carry them out. The Jihad and Hamas leaders that suicide bombings serve the anti-Oslo process even revive it by justifying crackdown on Islamic groups which will establish the end of renewed talks.

they want a summit that can break the cycle of mass violence, for which can be held individuals responsible, but for which Yasser Arafat and from Islamic radicalism will benefit them of crucial importance to place the blame where it belongs: the most political opponents finding that the top were both Islamic Jihad and Israeli agents. It was at that time. The two were taken to the January 1995 Beit Lidim that killed 21 Israelis. It is, but it is the only way to justify his political stance down on what would be a popular activity.

would set for parole

because it believed they constituted a threat

the proposal, a special committee would be set up to commit a 10-year term, 10 years, assuming the committee has already set

the special committee to release a prisoner who had been charged with the murder of the soldier. The committee had passed, assuming no longer possible.

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PM: US must assist peace

By ELLI WOHLGELERTER

Any agreement between Israel and the Palestinians can only be signed with the assistance of the United States as "a facilitator," most likely at a Camp David-style summit, Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu said yesterday.

"I think [the US's] contribution is absolutely crucial," Netanyahu said before an international group of mayors here for a conference. "This is not a diktat. If they [the Palestinians] want to, they'll take it up; if not then we can continue step by step. But I can tell you confidently that any time we come to close an agreement, we need the assistance of a facilitator - it's not a mediator, it's a facilitator - and I think the United States is the only one who can play this role."

"There are some who think that Europe can play it, some who think that Russia can play it - [but] too many cooks spoil the broth. The one

cook that we need at this stage - and I think there's an agreement on the Palestinian and Arab side in general on this - is the United States. So it's necessary, and I think it might be needed very soon."

EU officials called yesterday for a greater mediating role in the peace process for the 15-nation bloc, Reuters reported.

Netanyahu left last night for The Hague, The Netherlands. He is scheduled to meet today with Dutch Prime Minister Wim Kok and Foreign Minister Hans van Mierlo, and with The Netherlands' Queen Beatrix.

EU officials said the escalating violence in the region would be on the agenda during Netanyahu's visit to The Netherlands, which currently holds the rotating EU presidency.

Describing his visit with US President Bill Clinton on Monday as "a useful trip," Netanyahu said the two discussed the issue of terrorism, and how to move the peace process along, including the idea of a Camp David-

style summit.

"The first principle that President Clinton and I discussed and agreed upon is that there must be an absolute condemnation and battle against terrorism on the Palestinian side, because that is the first condition of Oslo, and the first condition of peace."

On the issue of terrorism, Netanyahu repeated that while there can be no peace talks while it continues, Israel does not expect a complete cessation of bombings. "It's possible, by the way, to have on occasion terrorists who are individual aberrations. For example, we had in Jordan an individual Jordanian soldier gun down seven young girls. A terrible tragedy - but it didn't affect our relationship with Jordan because we know that the Jordanian army, and the Jordanian security forces and King Hussein all are doing everything they can to stop terrorism. So we don't look for 100 percent results. But we look for 100 percent effort."

IN CONTEXT / SARAH HONIG

Aloni vents bile at Sarid

If anyone needed a reminder of the raw, unbridled passions which drive Israeli politics and lead to those chasms which even time and new generations cannot bridge, Meretz's former leader Shulamit Aloni served up an acerbic reminder yesterday. It had long been axiomatic in local politics that if there is a rare dull day in the political arena, Aloni can be counted upon to liven it up. She indeed proved her relentless ability to do so even when in

Yaron Dekel yesterday morning, she explicitly compared Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu to Aristotle's tyrant, stressing that he amply possesses all his characteristics, like "seeking to get rid of the country's elite and intellectuals, spying on the populace, fomenting discord between rich and poor, and going to war occasionally... He distrusts even those closest to him and appears to respect the gods and their rites."

Isn't it a bit extreme to liken the democratically elected prime minister to a dictator? she was asked. But Aloni reminded her interviewers that Hitler, too, was democratically elected. Seconds later she complained bitterly that "those who incited against the previous government and its head are now in power." She admitted that she can't get used to this reality.

But what Aloni does to her rival Sarid takes up much space in her book. She says he and others in Meretz tried to foil the late prime minister Yitzhak Rabin's attempts to compensate her for losing the Education Ministry during the previous government's term.

"You should know your friends are very active against you," she quoted Rabin as warning her. She said that when Sarid joined Meretz in 1984 she was already cautioned to "beware. He will destroy you. He is a snake in the grass. He is domineering. He is a megalomaniac."

Sarid, according to Aloni's book, "is certain he was destined for greatness and that his wisdom is limitless." She says he contributed "only one single activist to Meretz - someone called Amos from Holon."

Their relations, she attests, fell apart totally in the 1992 Knesset elections, "when he unsuccessfully sought to take over the campaign. The crisis was so great that I think it was then that his destructiveness became full-blown and his venom glands began to fill to overflowing, shooting out great jets of poison."

According to her account,

when she tried to get Sarid a portfolio after those elections Rabin reacted with: "What do you want? He'll do to you what he did to me." She asserts that Rabin "referred to the image of a drunkard which Yossi created for him."

Sarid told *The Jerusalem Post* in response that "for many years I've chosen not to react to anything she says. I did tackle some of her claims in a recent book of my own, but in a calmer tone. The only question which needs



Aloni: "He is a snake in the grass. He is domineering. He is a megalomaniac"



Sarid: "If I am such a snake, how could she ask people to vote for me?"

apparent retirement.

With lots of spare time on her hands, she has put together a book aptly titled, *I Couldn't Do It Differently*. In it she settles accounts with no holds barred. Mostly she goes for the jugular of her erstwhile Meretz colleagues, especially the bane of her life, Yossi Sarid, who replaced her as party leader.

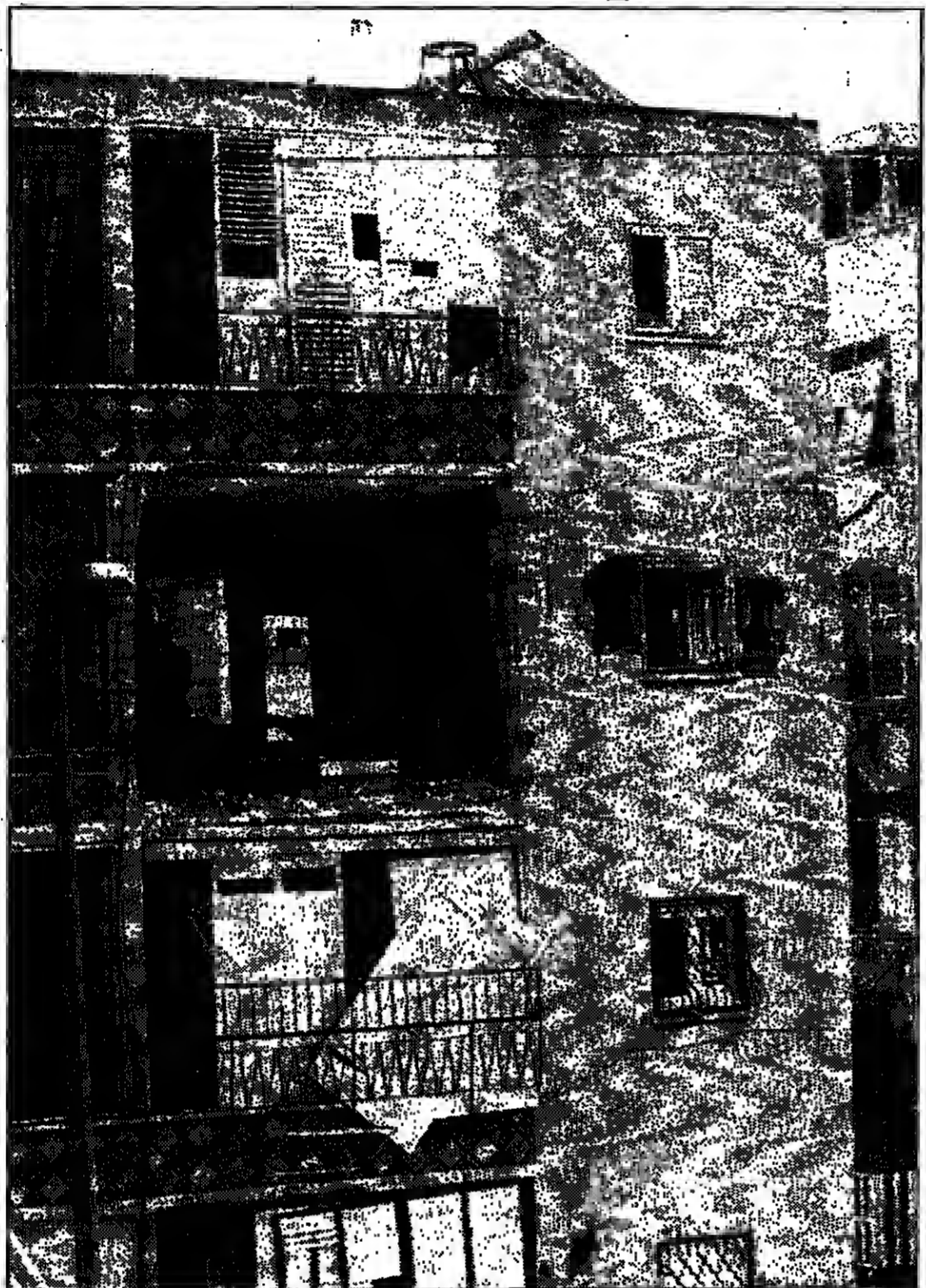
But inter alia Aloni swings in all directions. In a promotional interview for the book with Israel Radio's Shelly Yehimovitz and

he asked is that, if I am such a snake, how could she ask people to vote for me? She should have staunchly opposed this, were she honest."

Several other Meretz MKs refused to get drawn into the scuffle. One activist called it "an embarrassment. It's simply something I am ashamed of and I wish it just didn't exist." He pointed to the long Rabin-Peres dispute, "which also produced such riveting literature. If this proves anything, it is that the more things change, the more they stay the same."

13 hurt in Bat Yam gas explosion

Thirteen people were injured, one of them seriously, when leaking cooking gas exploded yesterday in a Bat Yam apartment building. The building itself and the two adjacent buildings were extensively damaged by the blast.



A gaping hole shows the damage left by a gas explosion yesterday to the third-floor apartment of the Jersey family, at Rehov Harav Shapira 3 in Bat Yam.

Neighbors had reported the smell of gas coming from the third-floor apartment of the Jersey family, on Rehov Harav Shapira 3, and firefighters were waiting outside for police to arrive in order to break in and check for a leak when the explosion occurred.

The firefighters had closed the main gas valve outside the apartment, but failed to evacuate the building. The Fire and Rescue Service is investigating this lapse in procedure.

The seriously injured victim is an elderly next-door neighbor of the Jerseys'.

She suffered head, face, back, and burn injuries.

Another neighbor was moderately injured; the rest of the victims, including three firefighters, were lightly injured, most by concussion.

Two victims remained in Wolfson and Ichilov hospitals last night.

Ruth Kamin, who lives in the next-door building, said she ran to the window after hearing a fierce explosion in the middle of the afternoon.

"I saw everything flying - armchairs came flying out the windows and huge amounts of dust and cement," she said. "I was sure it was a terrorist attack."

Kamin said firefighting, ambulance, and police units arrived quickly, along with many bystanders. "There were injured lying in the street," she said. "It was a terrifying spectacle, just like a horror movie."

An upstairs neighbor of the Jerseys', Eli, arrived home just after the blast. "People were trapped in the building when I got there and the firefighters were still trying to get them out," he said.

"Nobody was in my place, except my two hamsters - and perhaps I'll find them eventually,"

Maxim Levy claims brother David might run for premier

By SARAH HONIG

Foreign Minister David Levy may run for prime minister in the next national elections and Geshet may run its own list for Knesset apart from the Likud, Levy's brother, Lod Mayor and Geshet MK Maxim Levy, said yesterday, adding that the Likud "forgets that it was the development towns that brought it to power."

His remarks took members of his own faction, as well as the Likud, by surprise. Later in the day, Maxim Levy told *The Jerusalem Post* that "what I say is hypothetical. It is possible in theory. This does not mean that we will break away from the Likud or that we will stay together but only that all options are open."

He added that "this had not been discussed with anyone. This is not a Geshet party decision and there have been no factional delibera-

tions about it. This subject was not raised in any private discussion or in any forum and I am definitely not speaking on my brother's behalf. He can very aptly speak for himself and I have the right to express my opinions."

In any case, he went on, "all this is not at all topical now, but only so far as the next elections in over three years are concerned."

The foreign minister, upon his return last night from Turkey, refused to comment.

But a Geshet MK close to him belittled the entire matter saying "it is all a slip of Maxim's tongue. No one is even contemplating any such move." He added that "Maxim had always been on the most extreme fringe in Geshet and opposed partnership with the Likud and peace with [Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu]. David didn't take his advice, though he put his brother on the Knesset list and takes care not to

hurt him."

Levy and Netanyahu feuded bitterly before last year's elections and Levy was even a candidate for prime minister for a time. But shortly after starting his race, he withdrew and his Geshet Party joined the Likud-Tsomet bloc.

It remains an independent party, however, and plans to field candidates in the next municipal and Histadrut elections.

A number of Geshet sources stressed to the *Post* yesterday that David Levy has no cause for complaint, because Netanyahu is being careful not to raise his ire.

Liat Collins adds

Responding to reports that Levy might run for premier in the next elections, MK Michael Kleiner (Geshet-Likud) said: "I have always believed and continue to believe that Levy should be prime minister. If he runs I will support him."

THE JEWS OF PIEDMONT & LOMBARDY



From the 14th century onwards, Jews escaping persecution settled in Piedmont, which was part of the Duchy of Savoy, and there is evidence from the 12th century of Jews living in Lombardy, part of the Duchy of Milan.

The English speaking tour, organized by JEWISH HISTORICAL SEMINARS and ZIONTOURS, takes place from Monday, JUNE 16, until Thursday, JUNE 26.

Led by Prof. Yom Tov Assis of the Dept. of the History of the Jewish People, of the Hebrew University, an 11 day tour will visit Carmagnola, Cherasco, Biella, Verceili, Casale Monferrate, Saluzzo, Cuneo Mondovi, and the numerous Jewish quarters of Turin and Milan.

The price of US\$2495 includes return flight by scheduled airline, double-room accommodation in first-class hotels, full daily buffet breakfast, kosher Shabbat dinner and lunch, nine lectures, excellent local guide, all entrance fees, touring in luxury buses, transfers, etc.

Every day there will be a lecture on a different aspect of the study trip and we will visit synagogues, Valentino Castle, the Roman Fortress, the Royal Palace, the Antiquity Museum in Turin, as well as the Hebrew Manuscript collection at the National Library. In Milan, we'll visit the Brera Picture Gallery, Sforza Castle, and the Ambrosian Library.

Full information and reservations from: Debbie Zuberi, ZIONTOURS, 19 Rehov Hillel, Jerusalem 91025. Tel. 02-5345191, Fax. 02-5700005, e-mail: zuberi@netvision.net.il Jo-Anne Greenblatt, Tel. 02-5342079. Land arrangements only: US\$1945. Please register early, as our last trips were booked up quickly.

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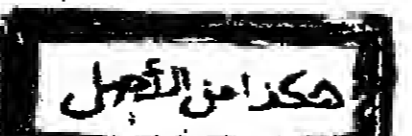
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Turkish pragmatism

Although crowded off the front pages by the Hebron violence, Foreign Minister David Levy's visit to Ankara this week provided an important indication that isolating Israel diplomatically will not be as easy as some of Israel's adversaries hope.

Despite the continuing international storm over building on Har Homa, clashes in Hebron, the increasingly strident attempts by Yasser Arafat to galvanize Islamic religious opposition to Israel and his own personal misgivings, Turkish Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan agreed to meet Levy and discuss economic and military cooperation.

To be sure, Turkey has always been a strategically important country, if only because it straddles the border of Europe and Asia on Russia's southern flank. The founders of NATO recognized this and included Turkey as a full member early on.

All that has changed, and today Turkey has a growing, Europe-oriented, yuppie business class which is pushing the country forward towards integration into the global economy. At the same time, large parts of the country remain more traditionalist, which places Turkey, not unlike other emerging economies, in a delicate transitional state.

Turkey's growth has led to renewed interest there in its international role. Many Turks would like to think of Turkey as an integral part of Europe, and hope that it can one day join the EU as a full member.

within Iraq and Syria. This led Turkey to pay more attention to events in the Middle East, and was a major catalyst for the development of the strategic closeness between Turkey and Israel.

Erbakan's election victory last summer led to speculation that this strategic cooperation would end. Both before and immediately after his election, Erbakan himself announced that he would downgrade Turkey's ties to Israel and engage in efforts to create an "Islamic NATO."

But events since then have proven this prediction wrong. Bowing to demands from business interests and the military, Erbakan's Turkey has signed a \$650 million agreement with Israel Aircraft Industries for the modernization of its air force.

There are important lessons to be learned from this. For one thing, there is some truth to the thesis that a new Middle East can emerge. That is, it is possible for nations in this region, such as Turkey, to develop a large and influential enough group of citizens with a stake in maintaining stability and open trade.

Another item that should be noted is that, it is possible for leaders claiming to speak in the name of Islam to choose pragmatic actions. Erbakan's political party did not hide its displeasure at the possibility of his meeting Levy.

The development of a pact amongst economically growing and politically liberal-minded nations such as Turkey and Israel, and perhaps Jordan as well, will only enhance the positions of each of the countries and of the region as a whole.



The premier's talk show

Binyamin Netanyahu's speeches in the US this week were superb, magnificent, an example of scaled-down Churchillian oratory.

"Magnificent indeed, but it's not war," commented the Russians in the Crimean War, as they viewed the battlefield littered with the bodies of the 600 English heroes of the Light Brigade after their suicidal charge.

Yes, we cheered Netanyahu on as he thundered: "Building will continue on Har Homa! Our building in the settlements will continue!"

One ominous portent was that two-hour luncheon meeting between Netanyahu and President Clinton at the White House.

There were smiles afterwards for the cameras. But something was wrong. At other such midday meetings, Clinton lays on lunch for his guests.

The weakness in Netanyahu's bold but blundered oratory emerged in an aside, when he said that no decisions had yet been made about the possibility of new settlements.

That is more or less a given. But the reality is that since Netanyahu came to power just under a year ago, the grand total of new housing units built in existing settlements is 10. That's all.

URI DAN DENNIS EISENBERG

West Bank? Well, quietly, without any publicity, without any speeches.

Yitzhak Rabin's and Shimon Peres's message when suicide bombs went off on Israeli buses last year, killing 200 Israelis? What happened to Netanyahu's fiery electoral speeches to the effect that if he came to power, Israelis' personal security would be his priority?

Two or three ships are already anchored offshore. Who knows what is aboard them? In Beirut over 15 years ago, a writer of this column saw other ships there unloading cargo for Arafat's army.

As the intifada there grows more virulent daily, is anything being done, those pious words aside, to get Arafat to restore order?

Are there similar tanks waiting to be unloaded in Gaza? There is no telling, for Israel recently agreed that it would not object to Arafat's completing his airport, or to planes landing and taking off there without Israeli security checks.

And what about the hundreds of Palestinian VIPs whose vehicles are not subject to inspection as they travel daily between Gaza and the West Bank? It is no secret that these cars carry weapons and explosives for Arafat's budding armed forces and police.

WHY is this important? Because in the US this week Netanyahu's rigid line about refusing further negotiations until terrorism ceases was less rigid than his fighting talk suggested.

He didn't actually say Arafat must stop all terror, only that he wanted a 100-percent effort from him. Naturally, said the prime minister, there will always be fanatics and suicide bombers. It is understandable that Arafat cannot promise 100-percent success in curbing terror.

And what about the action on the battlefield itself—never mind the chat going on in Washington? What's happening in Gaza, on the

Seeing nothing

LARRY DERFNER

To watch the way Israelis go about their business these days, you wouldn't know that we are, as Shimon Peres reasonably put it, "on the verge of catastrophe."

It's business as usual in Israel. People are rushing around, babbling into their cellular phones, buying, selling, planning their trips overseas, trying to decide whether to invite the cousins from Nes Ziona to the seder.

The world looks at the Middle East and sees an explosion about to happen. We're sitting here at ground zero, and see nothing.

We're a busy, nouveau-riche society. We've got full lives to live, the holidays are coming up, and all that other stuff is just politics.

Things are shaky with the Palestinians? What else is new? Do you believe this deal for eight nights in London?

To the Israeli middle-class mind, London is such, much closer than the West Bank or Gaza. A cafe in Tel Aviv gets blown up, and we get scared for a little while, then we go back to our preoccupations.

Burning Israeli flags in Khan Yunis, rioting in Hebron? That's over there, on the dark side of the moon.

The Palestinians? Who knows, who cares? They're a rabble, and if they get too far out of line, we'll knock 'em on the head, and they'll calm down.

If the peace process ends, We're 'on the verge of catastrophe?' Surely not

well... the peace process will end. The Palestinians will go back inside their hovels and watch TV, and we'll go to the mall.

And then all the big nutty-mucks will sit down and think up a new plan, and the same old boring blah will go on like always.

Isn't that the way it goes? Nothing sinks in over here. Palestinian despair, rage, desperation—it's a rumor; it's a lie. It's their fault.

We are blameless. We don't want to listen to them, look at them, let their misery slow us down for a minute.

WE'VE picked the right prime minister, that's for sure. He doesn't look like he's worried about anything. He goes to Washington, full of bravado, and Clinton doesn't bite his head off in front of the cameras, so it was a success, right?

The folks at AIPAC cheered him like crazy. The fundamentalist Christians gave him a hallelujah chorus.

What a handsome, charismatic guy we've got for a mouthpiece. Everybody loves us.

We're gone back down in our bunker. The Netanyahu government has done such a good job of reassuring us that we're 100% right and the Palestinians 100% wrong—as if we needed reassuring—that we've gone blind from smugness.

Our reading of the Oslo accords is that they have to give us peace, and we have to give them... as little as we choose.

Two percent of Area C on the first withdrawal? It's our right. We can give them two dumams on the second withdrawal, and two pebbles on the third, if that's what we decide. There's nothing in the Oslo accords that says we can't.

And the only thing the Palestinians can say in return is—okay. They can grumble a little, but in the end they have to swallow it. They can talk about statehood, settlements, Jerusalem, anything they want, but when we say, "no, no and no," they have to accept it. That's the peace process.

We honestly expect them to knuckle under to this. What's more, we expect the world's backing, or at least the US's, which we believe, is all that really counts.

An agreement's an agreement, right? Crumbs for peace—take it, or take a walk.

We are in Lalaland, all by our selves. The leaders of the world are scratching their heads, saying, "What can these Israelis be thinking?" We're thinking that things will work themselves out.

But nobody has a clue as to how—not Clinton, not the Europeans, not even our Great Communicator.

"On the verge of catastrophe?" Only in Israel does this sound-like hysteria, in the rest of the world, it goes almost without saying.

If and when catastrophe comes, we'll surely be the last to know.

The writer is a journalist living in Tel Aviv.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

IN LIMBO

Sir, - I refer to the brief article of April 2 entitled "Poraz: 30+ immigrants should do reserve duty," in which it states that "Poraz (Shinui) has written to Defense Minister Mordochai asking him to obligate immigrants who arrive here after the age of 30 to do reserve duty. Poraz has discovered that they are currently exempt..."

NEGLECT OF BASIC HYGIENE

Sir, - Unless I am much mistaken, the photograph of Rabbi Yisrael Lau helping to bake "shmurat" matza for Pessah (back page, March 31) also shows that the chief baker standing next to him has a cigarette dangling from his mouth.

HORRENDOUS JUDGMENT

Sir, - It is ridiculous to blame Binyamin Netanyahu for the murders of three women in Tel Aviv and seven girls in Naharayim. These crimes were committed by Hamas and a Jordanian soldier.

DISGUSTING

Sir, - I can think of little which is more disgusting to the eye and to the mind than the photo in your issue of March 31 which shows a baker in Bnei Brak producing "shmurat matza" with a cigarette dangling from his lips.

POTENTIAL MURDERERS

Sir, - Moshe Arens's article of March 28, "A call for permanent closure," is analytical and logical and based on the assumption that potential murderers (suicide bombers) walking the streets of our cities are from the Palestinian population in Judea, Samaria and Gaza.

TERRORISM

Sir, - Israel drops its extradition request for Abu Marzook because security sources expressed fear that it will trigger a wave of terrorist attacks.

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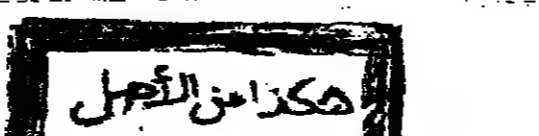
PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



Winter storms have a way of taking people by surprise, such as when they get soaked and it's not even raining. These Seattle motorists were engulfed by waves during a recent severe wind storm.

POSTSCRIPT

Ahh. Swearing is sometimes good for you and may reduce stress, a University of Florida researcher said. "We have been told all our lives that swearing is inappropriate, but there are actually times when it may be appropriate," said Kristy Beers, a doctoral candidate in linguistics.



Were they really guilty?

Julius Rosenberg's handler offers new evidence

By MICHAEL DOBBS

Half a century has passed since Alexander Feklisov held his fast clandestine meeting with Julius Rosenberg, but the retired Soviet spy describes the occasion as if it were yesterday.

It was a hot, humid evening in August 1946. Feklisov, then a young intelligence officer attached to the Soviet Consulate in New York, had just been recalled to Moscow. The FBI was closing in on the networks of Soviet agents set up by the Kremlin during World War II from the ranks of committed American Communists. A telegram had arrived from the KGB's Moscow Center to temporarily close down the New York operation.

They met at a Hungarian restaurant on Manhattan's Upper West Side and then, as night fell, went for a walk along Riverside Drive. They watched the pleasure boats steaming up the Hudson River, lights twinkling from their porches. Feklisov remembers sitting on a bench with Rosenberg and giving his American friend final "instructions" on how to resume contact with his Soviet handlers. He handed over \$1,000 to cover possible emergencies.

At the end of the meeting, the two men stood and embraced before going their separate ways. Feklisov went on to have a distinguished career in foreign intelligence, including a posting to Washington as KGB resident in the early 1960s. Rosenberg and his wife, Ethel, were executed in 1953 after a sensational treason trial at which they were accused of giving Soviet Russia the secret of the atom bomb.

Flash forward 50 years. Feklisov returns to New York in late August to help clarify one of the most divisive and enduring controversies in modern American history. Julius and Ethel Rosenberg went to their

mate personal knowledge of the Rosenberg case. "Julius was a great sympathizer of the Soviet Union. There were others who also believed in communism, but were unwilling to fight. Julius was a true revolutionary, who was willing to sacrifice himself for his beliefs." In interviews with *The Washington Post* and a cable TV channel based in Bethesda, Maryland, Feklisov said he held a series of at least 50 meetings in New York with Rosenberg from 1943 to 1946. He credited Rosenberg with helping to organize an important industrial espionage ring for Moscow and handing over top secret information on military electronics. At the same time, however, he insisted that Ethel Rosenberg never had any direct contact with Soviet intelligence, but conceded that she was probably "aware" of her husband's activities.

Feklisov, who is known in the United States for his role as a behind-the-scenes intermediary between the KGB and the White House during the 1962 Cuban missile crisis, said that Julius Rosenberg played only a peripheral role in Soviet atomic espionage. He described as absurd the claim of sentencing judge Irving Kaufman that the Rosenbergs had "altered the course of human history" through their treachery by putting the atomic bomb into the hands of the Soviets.

Feklisov's assertions about the nature of the espionage role played by Julius and Ethel Rosenberg are consistent with recently released top-secret American intercepts of Soviet intelligence cables between New York and Moscow from the early 1940s. The so-called Venona intercepts include repeated references to Julius Rosenberg's industrial espionage, but suggest only peripheral involvement in atomic spying.

The intercepts show that the Soviets had at least three key informants in the US atomic energy program, known as the



Ethel and Julius Rosenberg arrive at their espionage trial in New York in 1951. (AP)

ordinary emotions aroused by the case that FBI director J. Edgar Hoover dubbed "the crime of the century." Executed by electric chair in Sing Sing at sundown on June 19, 1953, the Rosenbergs rapidly became a potent political symbol. To the left, they were martyrs of the McCarthyite "hysteria" then sweeping America. To the right, they were leaders of a Communist fifth column that had betrayed America from within.

The controversy over the government's handling of the case was heightened by the severity of the punishment.

The double death sentence for husband and wife was unprecedented, at least in a federal court, and meant that two young children had to grow up as orphans. It provoked a storm of protest all around the world, with France condemning the US for "barbarism" and Pope Pius XII issuing a personal appeal for clemency.

Both men served as consultants for the forthcoming program and plan to publish competing assessments of Feklisov's revelations in this week's editions of their respective ideological house organs, the *New Republic* and *The Nation*. But the fact remains that the differences between the two historians are now largely academic.

"I accept that Julius Rosenberg was involved in espionage," said Schneir, contradicting one of the central points of his 1968 book, *Invitation to an Inquest*, which he wrote with his wife, Miriam.

The Rosenberg children, Michael and Robert Meeropol, who have repeatedly maintained that their parents are innocent of espionage, declined an invitation to meet with Feklisov last September during his two-week visit in the US.

Feklisov is mentioned several times in the Venona intercepts under the code name "Calistrat" as one of several Soviet agents working under Kvasnikov's direction. The State Department was presumably aware of this background when it approved a visa for Feklisov to work as a counselor at the Soviet Embassy in Washington from 1962 to 1964. The position was a cover for his real job as head of Soviet intelligence in the US.

During a 1989 seminar in Moscow on the Cuban missile crisis, Feklisov identified himself publicly as the notorious "Mr. X," who said he served as the back channel between the Kremlin and the White House. His American contact was ABC News diplomatic correspondent John Scali, who later served as US ambassador to

"There is no longer any debate among serious people that Julius Rosenberg was a spy for the Soviet Union. [At the same time] it is clear that the Rosenbergs did not give the Soviets the 'secret' of the bomb, and they should not have been executed."

—Ronald Radosh

WITHOUT access to the KGB files on the Rosenberg case, it is difficult to corroborate the details of Feklisov's story. While the FBI has been aware for some time that Feklisov worked for Soviet intelligence in New York during World War II, the precise nature of his activities during the war has remained a mystery to the federal government until now.

Partial confirmation of Feklisov's relationship with Rosenberg is contained in the FBI's own files. In prison, Julius Rosenberg shared a cell with an FBI informer named Jerome Tarkow who succeeded in gaining his confidence. According to FBI records, Rosenberg told Tarkow that he had meetings with two Russians, whom he named as Henry and Alex.

With hindsight, it now seems likely that these two names refer to Semenov, whose code name was Henry, and Feklisov, who says he was known to Rosenberg by his

United Nations.

Feklisov's account of Ethel Rosenberg's minimal involvement in her husband's work conforms with what is known from the Venona documents.

Schneir, the left-wing historian, says he was unable to catch Feklisov out in a significant error of fact when he interviewed him in September. He adds, however, that Feklisov's obvious familiarity with the literature of the case and the Venona documents make it impossible to reach a "definite conclusion" on the authenticity of his story.

"We could not endorse it, but we could not refute it. We had to admit defeat," Schneir said.

Schneir's literary rival, Radosh, is also impressed by the cumulative weight of Feklisov's testimony. "He is the genuine article," Radosh said. "I do not think that someone could make up all those minute details."

(The Washington Post)

Feklisov described as absurd the claim of sentencing judge Irving Kaufman that the Rosenbergs had "altered the course of human history" through their treachery by putting the atomic bomb into the hands of the Soviets.

deaths insisting that they were the victims of a government conspiracy. Up until now, Moscow has steadfastly denied their guilt and has refused to make public any of the intelligence files dealing with the case. For generations of left-wing Americans, the innocence of the Rosenbergs was an article of political faith.

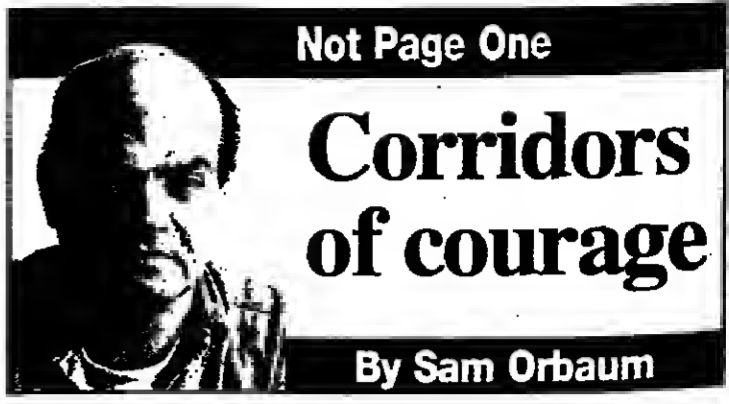
Aged 82 and frail, Feklisov again sat on a bench on Riverside Drive, near where he said his final goodbye to Rosenberg. He said the time has come to publicly reveal what he knows about the Rosenberg affair, despite what he described as the objections of Russian intelligence chiefs. A lifelong Communist, Feklisov wants the world to know that Julius Rosenberg was a "hero" who helped the Soviet Union in its hour of need in World War II and was later abandoned by his Soviet spy masters.

"My morality does not allow me to keep silent," said Feklisov, saying he is the only Soviet intelligence officer still alive with inti-

Manhattan project, who had no connection to the Rosenbergs. The most important was a nuclear scientist, Klaus Fuchs, who was convicted of espionage and sentenced to 14 years imprisonment by a British court in 1949.

Feklisov said the decision to tell his side of the Rosenberg story is the result of years of personal agonizing and arguments with his superiors in the foreign intelligence arm of the KGB. In 1993, he began cooperating with a researcher at the USA Institute in Moscow, Svetlana Chervonaya, and an independent American filmmaker, Ed Wierzbowski, who have investigated other Cold War spy cases. Last August, Wierzbowski's company, Global American Television, arranged for Feklisov to visit the US to work on a documentary film about the Rosenberg case which is scheduled to be aired soon.

With the Cold War over and the Soviet Union consigned to history, it is easy to forget the extraor-



Not Page One

Corridors of courage

By Sam Orbaum

He's a tough fellow, this Beo. A fighter, the sort of guy who inspires bravery without trying. In the army, myths are made of men like Ben, 100-kilo hulks fortified by challenge, oblivious to pain.

The thing is, Big Ben is a tiny toddler. He's a scrawny three-year-old who weighs in at eight kilos.

Beo is hating to stay alive, and it's a battle he wasn't expected to win, but now, it looks like he will. He has the most severe form of juvenile leukemia. He's been through so much in the second half of his life that by now he takes it, well, like a man. Tough fellow, this Ben.

He's not the only one. Terrible, terrible stories are told in every room on the third floor of the Hadassah Mother and Child Center, in Jerusalem.

Pray you never have to go to the third floor: this is where the most desperately ill children stay, for weeks and months — sometimes for the rest of their brief lives.

Hairless, puffy youngsters stricken with cancer; babies who've never been home; adolescents whose biggest health concern should be acne, rather than transplants.

Yet, for a place as awful as this, it is not morbid. It is tranquil, somehow even pleasant. It is a hospital exactly as one can only dream a hospital might be: every single detail, from the architecture to the uniforms to the *mezuzot* on the doors, is marvelously enlightened, proving that hospital healing can be humane.

For example, the uniforms: there aren't any. "We felt that traditional whites would be distressing to children, so we wear colorful 'civilian' clothes," explained Simha Dvir, head nurse of the high-stress third-floor department.

The center is built to look like a giant playroom, complete with a model train chugging silently around the lobby walls.

The decor is every inch vivacious and playful: even the ubiquitous name plaques are cute; the *mezuzot* look like toy rockets.

The geniuses who designed this place were smart enough to realize that children lying on their backs shouldn't have to stare at blank ceilings; there are railroad patterns over some beds, animal decals over others.

It's a simple concept that, somehow, oozes every hospital bolder seems to understand: healing must involve both body and soul.

In every possible way, Hadassah's new center understands this. "We call it 'psychological healing' and a healthy environment is definitely a part of it," Dvir said. "Our staff has a humane, personal attitude. We treat not just the illness, or the child, but the entire family."

Parents talk about the hospital and its staffers with praise and wonderment. It seems impossible to find a negative word: no bitterness, aggravation, irritation — not even about such givens as bureaucracy or boredom.

"Even the cleaners," Ori's mother said, "they clean the place like it's their own home."

Ori's parrots were robbed of

the joy of taking him home, to the room they lovingly outfitted for this, their first baby. Instead, they brought the room to him, surrounding his hospital bed with the typical trappings most newborns grow up at home with. The hospital permits, even encourages this.

Ori has been here for all of his six weeks, and will be for many months to come. He was born with a rare genetic condition that afflicts one or two babies a year in Israel: his body produces too little insulin. Ori's prognosis is good: he will, it seems, go home some day.

UDI has been here about the same length of time, but he's nine years old. An active, bright, athletic boy, he was racing around a schoolyard one day, dying of cancer the next. "We almost lost him," said his mother, her face a harrowed mix of beauty and distress. She was still coping with the shock, the sudden discovery that Udi had lymphoma.

Pray you never have to go to the third floor: This is where the most desperately ill children stay.

UDI is stoic, another tough cookie. He's old enough to understand. He speaks calmly about his cruel fate, a gritty kid accepting that he has been chosen to suffer. He will have to forgo a chunk of his carefree childhood, but he'll make it. He will make it.

There are 34 youngsters on the third floor the day I visited, 13 of them with cancer. Most are too listless to play. Some watch TV with weary disinterest; oocyte fingers bis IV tube as if it's a plaything.

Ben is beyond crying, his mother said, but not she; when she feels a weep welling up in her, she steps out into the corridor, away from Ben. "He must see that I am confident, not afraid."

Forgive her the occasional cry. She is a woman of immense courage, but she's not had it easy. She has rarely left Ben's side for 15 months. Fifteen months!

He arrived at the Mother and Child Center 10 months ago "in terrible condition, with so little hope." He was in isolation for 18 weeks, he has suffered horrible side effects, weathered a bone-marrow transplant, withered to sickly puniness. And he's not even old enough for kindergarten.

Is that not enough for one mother? She haso' been to her Ramat Gan home for almost a year. She has a year-old son who doesn't know her. And she should be in bed herself: she was due any minute to give birth again. Her third baby will also be motherless, until Ben pulls through, which may take many months more.

Forgive her. Sometimes, even the courageous cry.

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by Simon Trussler

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Australia financial scandal PM may lose Senate

By ALAN THORNHILL

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Prime Minister John Howard jeopardized his government's control of Parliament yesterday by pressing the deputy president of the Senate to resign over a financial scandal.

Howard led his coalition to a landslide 40-seat victory in the lower House of Representatives in general elections in March 1996.

But he failed to win a clear majority in its upper house, the Senate.

However, after the election Howard controlled the Senate by persuading a disgruntled member of the Labor opposition, Mal Colston, to resign from his party to become an independent and generally support the government.

Howard won Colston's heart by persuading

government senators to support the renegade senator's bid to retain his former post as deputy president of the senate.

This ploy allowed the government to push controversial legislation, including tough industrial relations laws and its plan to sell one-third of the nationally owned telecommunications carrier, Telstra, through Parliament.

These were big victories for Howard's conservative governing coalition in its first year.

But their luck ran out in recent weeks when Labor sought its revenge by pressing for details of Colston's lavish travel allowance and car usage claims to be made public.

Colston admitted his claims in these areas had exceeded his entitlements — in some instances he claimed to be in two cities at once.

But he blamed his staff for what he said were

bookkeeping mistakes.

However, a former staffer blew the whistle Tuesday evening, writing to the Senate president to say that Colston had always compiled his travel claims himself.

The whole matter has now been referred to the federal police, and Colston says he is considering whether to resign.

The constitution requires that he be replaced by a Labor senator, thus again forcing the government to negotiate with Labor, the Greens or the Australian Democrats to pass any legislation.

If Colston resigns from the Senate or is forced out, he would lose a valuable pension.

If he simply steps down from the deputy presidency of the Senate, Howard's government would have to find new ways of persuading him to keep voting for their legislation.



Mayor Richard Riordan celebrates his re-election Tuesday night in Los Angeles. (AP)

Riordan wins another term as LA mayor

LOS ANGELES (AP) — In a battle for City Hall that pitted a former 1960s radical against an Establishment mayor, the voters in the second-largest U.S. city chose Republican Mayor Richard Riordan over Democrat Stanley Hayden by a nearly 2-1 margin Tuesday.

Riordan had 217,575 votes, or 62.1 percent, to Hayden's 118,700, or 33.8 percent. There were three other candidates on the ballot.

Painting the same sunny picture of Los Angeles that he had offered during his campaign, Riordan declared in a victory speech: "Together, we have turned Los Angeles around. We've restored confidence in our city. We've made our city a livable L.A."

Hayden's strongest support came from the black community. But that bloc was eclipsed for the first time by Hispanics, who solidly favored Riordan, according to *Los Angeles Times* exit polls.

"It appeared the election generated even less attention than city officials had predicted. One hour before polls closed, only 19.6 percent of eligible voters had cast ballots.

The pugnacious Hayden added some life to what would have been an even more lackluster race.

The campaign came just months after memories of his role at the 1968 Democratic National Convention were renewed by his appearance at the 1996 convention in the same city.

To his frustration, however, Hayden's background as a Chicago Seven defendant and 1960s rabble-rouser loomed as large as his current political persona, that of a 57-year-old liberal state senator who wears a suit and a neat haircut.

Riordan, 66, elected the year after the 1992 riots, made expanding the police force a central theme of his first and second campaigns. During his first term the LAPD grew by 2,000 officers — short of the 3,000 he had promised to add or not seek re-election.

The last time Los Angeles voters ousted a mayor was 1973. Riordan's second four-year stint will be his last under term limits.

Major, Thatcher back 'sleaze' MP

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister John Major, whose Conservative Party's re-election campaign has been overshadowed by charges of sleaze, yesterday gave guarded support to a legislator accused of corruption.

Major's predecessor, Margaret Thatcher, also backed the controversial legislator, Neil Hamilton.

"He is a good candidate and nobody is perfect," Lady Thatcher, prime minister from 1979 to 1990, told reporters following her on a campaign trip to the southern English town of Dorset.



On Tuesday night, local party activists in Hamilton's wealthy parliamentary constituency, Tatton in northwest England, endorsed his nomination for the May 1 national election by a 2-1 majority.

Hamilton, one of 10 Conservative legislators under investigation, is accused of taking money from businessmen in return for raising issues in Parliament.

The Tatton party's decision meant the corruption issue will likely run through the campaign, and was widely seen as a blow for Major who is battling to close a huge lead in opinion polls by the Labor Party.

Major said the constituency had the right to select Hamilton, adding, "I hope people will vote for him."

"Only if and when he is shown to have misbehaved — then he should face the House of

British Prime Minister John Major greets supporters in Brecon, Wales, yesterday during a campaign visit. (Reuters)

Commons, and the House of Commons should decide how to respond," Major said at a news conference at party headquarters in London.

Opposition parties stepped aside in Tatton, leaving Hamilton in a straight fight with

a former BBC war correspondent, Martio Bell, running on an anti-corruption ticket. Lady Thatcher, 71, declaring she was "fighting fit," brushed aside sleaze as a campaign issue.

"This (election) is about the way the Tory party has trans-

formed Britain and got rid of the unions," said Lady Thatcher.

The Conservatives have been in power since Lady Thatcher defeated a Labor government in 1979 and implemented laws that emasculated Britain's then-powerful trade unions.

Germans oppose Kohl re-election

BONN (Reuters) — A clear majority of German voters hope Chancellor Helmut Kohl will not be elected for a fifth term in next year's general election, but expect it to happen anyway, an opinion poll released yesterday indicated.

Kohl, 67, last week put an end to months of speculation by announcing that he planned to run again in the election, due in September or October 1998.

The poll by Infratest Burke Berlin, released ahead of publication in today's weekly *Die Zeit*, said 57 percent of Germans did not want Kohl re-elected, but 59 percent believed he would win.

Some 63 percent saw Kohl as the strongest leadership figure, followed

by Lower Saxony premier Gerhard Schroeder of the opposition Social Democrats (SPD) with 20% and SPD chairman Oskar Lafontaine with 7%.

Schroeder and Lafontaine are the front runners to lead the SPD's challenge against Kohl, but the party insists it will not decide on a candidate for chancellor until next year.

Even SPD supporters gave Kohl 48%, ahead of Schroeder with 32% and Lafontaine with 10%.

However, German voters have no power to elect their head of government directly.

The popularity of Kohl's center-right coalition has slid in recent months, under pressure from high unemployment and its difficulty in implementing tax and pensions reforms.

Of the 1,013 voters polled on April 7, 41% said they would vote SPD if an election were held this week, and 11% said they would vote for the SPD's likely coalition partners, the environmentalist Greens.

Iraqi plane defies UN on pilgrimage

JEDDA (AP, Reuters) — An Iraqi passenger jet carrying pilgrims flew to Saudi Arabia yesterday in defiance of UN sanctions imposed in 1990.

The Iraqi Airways jet with 104 people aboard landed at King Abdulaziz International Airport near Jeddah and immediately was surrounded by security forces, an airport worker said.

He said the plane was required to park in an isolated area of the airport. Planes carrying pilgrims usually pull into a special terminal.

A senior official at the airport earlier said the Iraqi plane would be received and the pilgrims welcomed.

"Officials at Jeddah airport have no instructions or orders to return any plane carrying pilgrims from Iraq or any other country," he said. "Our explicit instructions are to provide all means of comfort to all pilgrims."

The jet took off from the Rashid

Air Base, which is 15 kilometers south of the Iraqi capital Baghdad, at 10:20 a.m. It was the first international flight dispatched by Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein since the UN Security Council banned flights in and out of the country after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait. The UN sanctions also prevent Iraq from marketing its oil, except under a special oil-for-food program.

The UN Security Council has said that the sanctions will not be lifted until Iraq complies with Gulf War resolutions demanding the elimination of all the country's weapons of mass destruction.

The UN Special Commission, charged with monitoring the sanctions, says that Iraq is still withholding information about its chemical and biological weapons programs.

In Iraq, reporters were bused by the government to the air base to watch the Russian-made Ilushin jet take off.

It was not immediately clear if Iraq planned to fly more pilgrims to Saudi Arabia.

It was the second pilgrim plane the kingdom has allowed to land this year in contravention of UN sanctions.

A Libyan plane carrying pilgrims landed in Jeddah on March 29. It was the third such flight since 1995 by Libya in defiance of UN sanctions connected with the 1988 bombing of a Pan Am airliner over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Diplomats in the kingdom say Saudi Arabia as custodian of Islam's two holiest shrines cannot be seen as denying any Moslem with a valid haj visa the right to perform the pilgrimage, which reaches a climax this year on April 16.

Up to two million Moslems, half of them from abroad, perform the haj every year. The UN imposed sanctions on Iraq following its 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The Iraqis, all over 50-years-old, were defiant when they left Baghdad. Sheikh Ibrahim Dirbaz said he was determined to reach Mecca or die a martyr on the way.

Others said they were sick and could not stand the hardship of the 2,000 km land journey through Jordan to Saudi Arabia. Of the 104 pilgrims, 40 were women.

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BUSINESS

in brief

Panel appointed to study moving Sde Dov

Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy yesterday appointed a commission to investigate the possibility of moving Tel Aviv's Sde Dov Airport onto a proposed man-made island just off the shore.

Haim Shapiro

Bezeq offers rapid data transfer

Bezeq has started offering a new telephone infrastructure service - Switched Multimedabit Data Services - which makes possible the rapid transfer of data from one computer to another.

Judy Siegel

Super-Sol to open megastore

Super-Sol is on the verge of launching the first of a series of megastores, outgoing chairman Leon Recanati disclosed yesterday at a modest ceremony of the guard ceremony in which he handed over the reins to Dahlia Lev.

Greer Fay Cashman



Ports and Railways Authority

Tender No. 115895/3/97 Set-Up of a Geographical Information System and Management of Geographical Data at the Ports and Railways Authority (PRA)

- 1. Further to its obligation deriving from the international GATT Agreement regarding governmental purchases, the Ports and Railways Authority hereby requests the submission of proposals for the set-up of a Geographical Information System (GIS) and management of the geographical data at the PRA on an out-sourcing basis.
2. Prerequisites for participating in this tender (further details are specified in the tender documents):
2.1 Previous experience during the past three years in managing two projects on a financial scale of at least \$500,000 each.
2.2 The bidder has registered a turnover exceeding NIS 6 million (net of VAT) per annum, over the past two years.
2.3 The bidder has had experience in Israel of setting-up two projects in the GIS field.
2.4 The proposed project manager has at least ten years' experience in the field of computerized data systems, of which at least three years will comprise project management.
2.5 The data base will be founded on an Oracle type data base.
2.6 The GIS software will have a market share of at least 7% of the world market.
2.7 Undertaking by the software manufacturer to help the bidder in completing and/or operating the system, as specified in the tender documents.
2.8 Compliance with the technical specification clauses marked "M."
2.9 Obligatory participation in the suppliers' meeting to be held on May 15, 1997, at 9:00 a.m. at the PRA's offices at 74 Petah Tikva St., Tel Aviv, 12th floor.
2.10 The bidder shall attach a bank guarantee for implementing its proposal in the sum of NIS 150,000 linked to the index known on the last date for submitting proposals and valid for 150 days from the last date for submitting proposals.
2.11 Submission of all the required certificates in accordance with the Public Bodies Transactions (Enforcement of Bookkeeping and Tax Debts Payment) Law, 1976.
3. All queries should be submitted in writing prior to the suppliers' meeting to Ms. Ruth Schlichter, Fax No. 03-5657046.
4. All tender documents, including the submitted documents, are in Hebrew.
5. The criteria for selecting the winning bidder, excluding cost, are as follows (see further details in the tender documents):
5.1 Compliance with the application chapter.
5.2 Compliance with the technological chapter.
5.3 Compliance with the implementation chapter.
6. The tender documents can be purchased Sunday to Thursday, from 8:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m., at the Purchasing Division, 74 Petah Tikva St., Tel Aviv, 11th floor, room 1103, for the sum of NIS 1,170 (including VAT) which will not be reimbursed. The PRA offices will be closed from April 21, 1997 to April 28, 1997.
7. The price quotation should be submitted in a sealed envelope that is separate from the technical proposal and placed in the tender boxes at the above address.
8. The last date for submitting the bids is June 22, 1997 at 2:00 p.m.
9. The Ports and Railways Authority does not undertake to accept the lowest bid, or any other bid whatsoever, and reserves the right to negotiate with the bidder/s whose bid/s are found suitable.

Treasury ready for new cuts in education, health

By DAVID HARRIS

If an additional budget cut is required, a plan is already at hand to make sweeping reductions in health and education spending, a well-informed Finance Ministry source said yesterday.

Outgoing State Budget director Ran Kroll indicated before leaving the post that there is waste in education. Rather than cutting down on teaching hours, the Treasury says reductions can be made in teachers' non-teaching hours.

In the field of health care, the Treasury wants to rethink the calculations for beds and patients, and is also unhappy with the extent to which the various Kupot Holim subsidize treatment.

For example, the Treasury argues, bypass surgery in Israel is the most expensive in the world to the state, and this situation could be re-examined.

If cuts are made, there are likely to be heated arguments

between the Treasury and the medical and education lobbies. Health Minister Yehoshua Matza refused last month to sign an order raising hospitalization rates by 10 percent.

In a letter to Finance Minister Dan Meridor, Matza said he was "shocked" to find that the Treasury's prices committee had decided to raise rates by that amount, while at the same time increasing income of the health funds (from health taxes) by only 8.82%.

"How do we allow ourselves to take such a step, despite our awareness of the serious deficits in the health funds?" he asked.

Meanwhile, the Union of Local Authorities promised on Tuesday night to back MK Maxim Levy's (Gesher) call for a committee of inquiry to investigate the lack of central government funds for locally provided education and welfare services.

Any further attempt to reduce spending is likely to fuel strong opposition, including prolonged strike action.

The Treasury has not yet begun its internal discussion on a possible additional cut to the 1997 budget, according to the source.

"It seems increasingly unlikely there will be a decision this month, more likely it will be made in May or even June, but certainly before the end of the second quarter."

Meridor and former ministry director-general David Brodet both promised they would decide whether to propose a cut on the basis of the state budget's performance in the first quarter.

Despite the Treasury's failure so far to fully discuss the deficit, Meridor, currently in the US, is scheduled to give a review of the economy to general and more specifically the state of the budget at a meeting with Prime Minister Binyamin Netanyahu and Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel on Sunday.

All those involved in that meeting are strongly denying the repeated reports in Globes financial daily suggesting that a fully integrated package is being

worked on, including a budget cut and concurrent reduction in the central bank's interest rate.

There is growing support in the Treasury for the first move to come from the bank in terms of a considerable drop in interest rates, either at once or in several steps over a month or two.

However, Frenkel is refusing to alter his position, which is that the government must make a cut if one is needed, while his main aim is to keep 1997 inflation within the government-set target of 7% to 10%. On the basis of the first quarter it already seems likely the annual inflation rate will be closer to the upper limit.

Any cut will be made on the basis of the size of the gap between the actual budget deficit and the target 2.8% of gross domestic product.

In annual terms, the first quarter deficit is indicating a total deficit of some 3.3% of GDP, with some economists now offering a less optimistic estimate of 3.6%.

Cisco Systems opens R&D center in Netanya

By JENNIFER FRIEDLIN

Cisco Systems, the international leader in Internet networking solutions, will assign its newly opened research and development center in Netanya with the task of developing the next generation of Internet technology, according to James Richardson, president of Cisco (Europe, Middle East, Africa, Australia, New Zealand).

Richardson, whose San Jose-based company has an annual turnover of more than \$4 billion, said that Israel has "an excellent pool of people that you can't find in Silicon Valley."

"The rapid growth of the chip design industry in Israel in the last few years has proven the commitment of this country to be a leader rather than a follower in the [information technologies] market."

The 10 engineers hired to start up Cisco's local R&D center will be responsible for developing a high-speed gigabit switch and routing technologies, Richardson said.

Such devices form the backbone of the Internet and reflect a potential market of \$5b.

Cisco's switches currently conduct 80 percent of the traffic over the Internet.

In addition to developing elements of the Internet's underlying infrastructure, Cisco provides a wide range of solutions for connecting to the Internet, develops Internet management tools for companies and also manufactures various Internet products.

Cisco was founded in 1984 by scientists from Stanford University who were looking for a more efficient way of connecting different types of computer systems.

The multinational corporation currently has over \$5b. in annual revenues, employees more than 10,000 employees and, based on market capitalization, is the third largest firm to trade on the Nasdaq over-the-counter exchange in New York.

Government mulling sale of additional Bezeq stake

By DAVID HARRIS

Following the heightened interest in the impending 24-percent Bezeq share offer, the government is already discussing the possibility of a further flotation or the sale of the controlling stake in the company, Communications Ministry spokeswoman Ayala Bar said yesterday.

While outlining concrete has been decided, the Government Companies Authority is looking at several options for the future privatization of the company, said Bar.

The possible sale of the controlling share is not contradictory to Communications Minister Limor Livnat's recent proclamation that there will be no sale of the con-

trolling share. "That was only said in reference to the initial 24%," said Bar.

Meanwhile, Bezeq marketing vice president Eitan Levy, currently in Japan with Industry and Trade Minister Natan Sharyansky's delegation, told the Bloomberg business news service that Japanese investors are investigating the possibility of purchasing shares in the company.

Levy has held talks with representatives of Nippon Telegraph and Telephone, Nishio Iwai Corp., Sony Corp. and Sumitomo Corp. Nishio's Tel Aviv office general manager Koichi Naito is also in Japan this week, accompanying the delegation.

"Big Japanese companies are showing interest in the privatization," said Levy. They see Israel as the strategic center for operations in the region, because of the com-

paratively high level of service, he added.

"There is no large Japanese company interested in purchasing shares in Bezeq," company spokeswoman Ella Bar Or said last night. "There have been no direct approaches to the company according to our deputy director for finance, and to the best of his knowledge there have been no approaches to the Government Companies Authority, which is responsible for the sale."

While in Japan, Levy is also looking at possible ventures in satellite television, electronic wallets and smart cards. The company is looking for a possible diversification, as its own market is rapidly reducing because of increased competition.

Pending Knesset Finance Committee approval expected to be given next Thursday, the gov-

ernment will reduce its stake in Bezeq to 52% before the end of the year from its current 76% share.

The 24% will be divested through means of flotations in either Tel Aviv or abroad, or possibly both, together with the sale of share bundles of up to 7%. Government Companies Authority director-general Tzipi Livni wants to float as much as possible on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange, by August at the latest, but that will depend on the price.

The remaining shares in the company are currently held by the public (14%) and British company Cable & Wireless (10%).

While the makeup of any controlling interest is unclear, the government is still negotiating with Cable over a possible joint controlling company, which would hold up to 20% of shares.

Want to keep in close touch with your securities till 11 PM? ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Table for PRIME Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents. Date: 8.4.97, Purchase Price: 113.28, Redemption Price: 112.64

Table for TARGET Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents. Date: 8.4.97, Purchase Price: 161.92, Redemption Price: 160.77

The Government of Israel through the Government Companies Authority hereby announces that it is considering to sell all the shares held by the State of Israel (hereinafter: "the State Shares"), in: The Israel School of Tourism Ltd. (hereinafter: "the Company") private company 51-035774-2 Parties other than "Government Corporations" (as such term is defined in the below mentioned Sale Procedure) interested in purchasing the State Shares (77.94% of the issued company capital), may apply to the Government of Israel through the Government Companies Authority as specified in this announcement.

P&G buys Tampax maker for \$1.85b. CINCINNATI (Reuters) - US consumer products company Procter & Gamble Co said yesterday it would acquire Tambrands Inc and its Tampax tampon brand for \$50 per share in cash or \$1.85 billion.

ISRAELI MONEY MARKETS. Table with exchange rates for various currencies and shekel rates for checks, transfers, and banknotes.

DRIVE SLOWER! DRIVE WITH CARE!

ISRAELI SHARES IN NEW YORK

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, AMEX, NASDAQ. Lists various Israeli companies and their stock prices.

MISHTANIM LEADING 100 TASE ISSUES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, MISHTANIM. Lists the top 100 TASE issues.

INTERNATIONAL SHARES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, INTERNATIONAL SHARES. Lists international stock prices.

TASE ROUNDOFF

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, TASE ROUNDOFF. Lists TASE roundoff data.

INDEXES DECREASE 2%

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, INDEXES DECREASE 2%. Shows index values and percentage changes.

WORLD MARKET ROUNDOFF

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, WORLD MARKET ROUNDOFF. Shows world market roundoff data.

NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, NEW YORK MARKET INDEXES. Lists New York market indices.

OTHER MARKET INDEXES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, OTHER MARKET INDEXES. Lists other market indices.

DOLLAR CROSS-RATES (US)

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, DOLLAR CROSS-RATES (US). Lists dollar cross-rates.

US COMMODITIES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, US COMMODITIES. Lists US commodities.

LONDON COMMODITIES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, LONDON COMMODITIES. Lists London commodities.

SPOT MARKET METALS (US)

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, SPOT MARKET METALS (US). Lists spot market metals.

NEW YORK METAL FUTURES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, NEW YORK METAL FUTURES. Lists New York metal futures.

LONDON METAL FIXES

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, LONDON METAL FIXES. Lists London metal fixes.

PARIS

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, PARIS. Lists Paris market data.

FRANKFURT

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, FRANKFURT. Lists Frankfurt market data.

AMSTERDAM

Table with columns: LAST CHANGE, AMSTERDAM. Lists Amsterdam market data.

STOCKS TUMBLE ON PROFIT-TAKING

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks ran into a wall of selling yesterday as profit-taking halted the market's three-session comeback after last week's headlong fall.

STOCKS TUMBLE ON PROFIT-TAKING

LONDON (Reuters) - The dollar soared to new peaks against the mark and yen yesterday, triggering a rally on European bourses as investors anticipated bigger profits among exporting companies.

STOCKS TUMBLE ON PROFIT-TAKING

Stocks in Paris, Frankfurt and London closed with healthy gains as the US currency climbed up a three-year high against the mark and touched a 56-month peak against the yen.

STOCKS TUMBLE ON PROFIT-TAKING

The dollar drew strength from widespread expectations of another rise in US interest rates and the mark came under pressure from recent data indicating little likelihood of a near-term rise in German interest rates.

STOCKS TUMBLE ON PROFIT-TAKING

The market was up 1.1% in after-hours computerized trade near the close. London's advance, up 0.5% at the close, was more modest and reflected uncertainty over the May 1 election and fears that interest rates could be increased to curb a booming British economy.

STOCKS TUMBLE ON PROFIT-TAKING

"Our market's strength is all about Wall Street. The Dow has been strong the past few days and we've been riding its coattails," the head of sales and trading at a major investment bank said.

STOCKS TUMBLE ON PROFIT-TAKING

average closed down 45.32 points at 5,653.84. Last week, the market tumbled 215 points on interest-rate worries. In the broader market, declining issues led advances by a small margin on moderate volume of 453 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

WHERE TO GO

Notices in this feature are charged at NIS 28.00 per line, including VAT. Insertion every day of the month costs NIS 520.00 per line, including VAT, per month.

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SPORTS

in brief

Israel 53rd in latest FIFA rankings

ZURICH - Israel dropped one place, from 52nd to 53rd in the latest FIFA rankings which were published in Zurich yesterday. The 3-0 win over Luxembourg in World Cup qualifying play and the 1-0 loss to Sweden in a friendly earlier last month had no positive effect on Israel's position in the rankings, which are published monthly.

Israel lie between Poland and Lithuania, with a points average of 42.79. A total of 188 nations appear in the standings. Brazil, who beat Poland 4-2 and Chile 4-0 in friendlies, maintained the top spot for the 37th consecutive month and even widened its gap over second-placed Germany.

France remained third while Spain climbed three spots to fourth. Italy also climbed three spots, moving into seventh behind Denmark and the Czech Republic.

England cricketers sent to 'charm school'

LONDON (Reuters) - England's cricketers will attend a 'charm school' next week in an attempt to improve their battered image before the Ashes series starts.

Following criticism of some players' appearance and conduct on the winner tours of Zimbabwe and New Zealand, the course will cover all aspects of public and media relations, among the key areas targeted by new English Cricket Board chairman Lord MacLaurin.

Bangladesh celebrates cricket World Cup win

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) - Bangladesh celebrated its cricket World Cup status yesterday by dancing in the street, exploding firecrackers and spraying each other with watery dye.

Bangladesh defeated Scotland by 72 runs to set up a title clash with Kenya in the final of the ICC Trophy cricket tournament being played in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Scotland will now play Ireland today for third place. The top three teams in the 22-nation tournament will qualify for the 1999 World Cup.

Tyson-Holyfield fight postponed

LAS VEGAS (AP) - Mike Tyson has postponed his rematch with Evander Holyfield until June 28 after reopening a cut over his left eye that he first injured in sparring last month.

It was the second time Tyson had postponed a fight against Holyfield, and the third time since Tyson was released from prison that he has had to postpone a fight because of illness or injury.

The fight had been scheduled for May 3, but promoter Don King postponed it Tuesday on the recommendation of the plastic surgeon who treated Tyson's cut.

Tyson came to Las Vegas two weeks ago to begin his final round of training for the fight, which is a rematch of the upset scored by Holyfield when he stopped Tyson in the 11th round of their November fight.

Juventus, Dortmund take European Cup leads

AMSTERDAM (Reuters) - Italy's Juventus beat Ajax Amsterdam 2-1 last night in the first leg of the European Cup semifinal - a repeat of last year's final which the Italian club also won.

Juventus struck twice in the first half, the first goal coming after 14 minutes from the boot of Nicola Amoruso and the second from the impressive Christian Vieri in the 41st minute.

Ajax, who sorely missed Patrick Kluyvert up front, staged something of a comeback in the second half and were rewarded in the 66th minute when Ronald de Boer threaded a pass through to Fion Jari Litmanen who kept his cool to score.

Ajax now face a tough return leg in the daunting Delle Alpi stadium in Turin on April 23. A fifth European Cup title oow looks a tall order for them.

In Dortmund, a deflected second-half goal from stand-in Rene Tretschok took Borussia Dortmund a step closer to their first European Cup final with a 1-0 victory over Manchester United in their semifinal first leg.

Treitschok, a late replacement in a Dortmund team hit by a crop of injuries, hit a crisp shot from just outside the area in the 76th minute which took a cruel deflection off Gary Pallister into the top left-hand corner.

Although it was a fortunate moment on a largely frustrating night for the German champions, Dortmund deserved victory for their industry alone.

The Germans went into the game without a handful of first-choice players. In addition to suspended libero Matthias Sammer, they were missing key internationals in strikers



THE AGONY, THE ECSTASY - Juventus's Nicola Amoruso celebrates his goal, the Turin side's first, as Richard Witsche of Ajax Amsterdam looks disconsolately at a teammate.

several good chances to score in the second half.

One of the best came in the 66th minute when a pass from Frenchman Eric Cantona put David Beckham clear on the right-hand side of the box. Beckham struck the ball crisply towards goal but defender Martin Kree managed to get his foot in the way.

United made a surprise late change just before the kick-off replacing Danish goalkeeper Peter Schmeichel who has been suffering from a back injury, with Dutchman Raimond van der Gouw.

Hap. Jerusalem out to defend State Cup vs. Mac. Tel Aviv

By ARYEH-DEAN COHEN

Maccabi Tel Aviv hopes to catch Hapoel Jerusalem while they're down and exploit the capital squad's recent woes to snatch away the State Cup at Yad Elishu tonight.

It's no secret that Hapoel Jerusalem has fallen on hard times of late, culminating in their blowing a chance to finish second in the league standings by losing at home to Hapoel Galil Elyon, then on the road to Maccabi Ra'anana.

But worse than just losing has been how Jerusalem has been losing. Against Ra'anana they simply folded, and were unable to even make a dent on the margin of victory, which might have kept them in second place.

Maccabi, on the other hand, is on the upswing, having recovered from its elimination from Euroleague play to end their regular season undefeated.

On paper, at least, it would seem coach Zvi Sherf's team is a clear favorite. However, Maccabi should be wary of underestimating Adi Gordon and his teammates. It was Gordon who flipped in an underhand at the buzzer to hand the trophy to Jerusalem last year. While the mercurial Jerusalem guard has been having a rough time of late, he's been known to rise to such occasions.

Jerusalem is likely to give a good deal of playing time to H. Waldman, whose play in the backcourt has been outstanding recently. Dan Bingener, who has been a major disappointment for Hapoel, is expected back in the starting lineup after sitting out a large portion of Sunday night's game vs. Maccabi Ramat Gan.

For Jerusalem to have a chance, they need to have their three-point game clicking. Fortunately, that was definitely the case Sunday night, and Kedar can only hope the sharpshooting will carry over to tonight's game. Jerusalem will also have to find a way to contend with Maccabi's deeper bench, especially up front where Maccabi can bring in Constantin Popa to spell Buck Johnson or Randy White. Jerusalem has only erratic Pini Levy and the offensively-challenged Eyal Hai to replace either Bingener or Billy Thompson.

Thompson is a key player in tonight's game. The former member of the Lakers and the Miami Heat has been a consistent hard worker. If he can stay out of foul trouble, he can be a major contributor to Jerusalem's efforts to hold on

PSG hosts Liverpool, Barcelona home to Fiorentina in Cup Winners' Cup tonight

LONDON (AP) - Defending champions Paris Saint Germain go into their fifth European semifinal in a row today against a Liverpool team wondering why they are not top of the English Premier League.

PSG reached the UEFA Cup semifinals in 1993, the Cup Winners Cup in '94 and '96 and the Champions Cup in '95. Yet their only triumph was last season's Cup Winners Cup when they downed Rapid Vienna 1-0 in the final in Brussels for their first European honor.

Now the French club meet a team which has won the Champions Cup four times and UEFA Cup twice but, ironically, never the Cup Winners com-

Inter race past Monaco, Tenerife down Schalke in UEFA Cup

LONDON (AP) - Inter Milan took a large step toward their third UEFA Cup title in seven seasons with a 3-1 win on Tuesday at home over Monaco in their first leg, semifinal match.

Spanish side Tenerife, in the European cup semifinal for the first time, also got a leg up with a 1-0 win over German side Schalke 04 through a penalty by Felipe Minambres in the sixth minute in their match in the Canary Islands.

Italian striker Maurizio Ganz scored twice for Inter in the first half and Chilean striker Ivan Zamorano got the other against the French league leaders.

The crucial second legs will be played April 22 in Germany and Monaco. Monaco may find themselves with hardly any home-grown advantage as thousands of Inter fans from neighboring Italy are expected to flood into the Mediterranean principality for the match.

Miami Heat closes in on Atlantic Division title

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP) - Alonzo Mourning had a season-high 35 points and 18 rebounds and the Miami Heat rallied from a 20-point first-half deficit to beat the New Jersey Nets 94-92 Tuesday night.

Tim Hardaway added 26 points as Miami staged its biggest comeback of the season in winning its fifth in a row. The Heat's previous best comeback was from 15 points behind against Golden State on Mar. 19.

The victory, combined with the New York Knicks' loss to Cleveland, reduced Miami's magic number for clinching the Atlantic Division to two.

Kerry Kittles scored 23 points and Kendall Gill 21 as New Jersey tied a season-high by losing its fifth in a row. The loss was also the 52nd of the season for the Nets under new coach John Calipari, tying the number the team had the previous two seasons under Butch Beard.

Cavaliers 93, Knicks 73

In New York, Terrell Brandon scored 25 points, Chris Mills and Danny Ferry had 21 each and the Cavaliers pulled into a tie with Washington for the eighth playoff spot in the East. Brandon also had 11 assists, and he outscored both of New York's point guards 25-0.

The Cavs, despite playing without two starters, had runs of 13-0, 9-0 and 9-0 in the second half to turn what had been a tight game into a blowout. Ferry did much of the damage during the runs with three of Cleveland's seven 3-pointers.

It was another humbling loss for the once-fearsome Knicks, who fell for the third time in their last four home games.

Griffey leads Mariners past Indians

SEATTLE (AP) - Ken Griffey Jr hit his sixth homer and drove in four runs, and Jay Buhner broke out of a season-opening slump with his first homer and four RBIs as the Seattle Mariners beat Cleveland 14-8 Tuesday night.

Sandy Alomar tied an Indians record by homering in his fifth straight game. He tied a career-high with four hits and drove in four runs.

Mariners manager Lou Piniella, frustrated by his team's 2-4 start, was ejected by plate umpire Darryl Cousins in the second inning. He then went on a five-minute dirt-kicking, chalk-raising tirade at home plate that delighted the Kingdom crowd of 24,348 and brought a smile to the face of Griffey in center.

Cousins tossed Piniella for a comment he made while talking to Seattle starter Dennis Martinez on the mound as the Indians led 5-4.

Griffey, who leads the American League in homers, went 3-for-5 and Buhner was 3-for-4. Griffey hit a two-run homer, a 434-foot shot into the third deck in right field in the seventh off Albie Lopez (0-1). Edwin Hurtado (1-0) picked up the win.

Red Sox 13, Athletics 7

In Oakland, California, Reggie Jefferson's second homer ignited a seven-run seventh inning that Darren Bragg capped with a grand slam.

Bragg, who had an RBI single earlier, finished with a career-high five RBIs and Jefferson hit a pair of two-run homers.

Lemieux scoreless in last home game

PITTSBURGH (AP) - Mario Lemieux took a flurry of shots but couldn't score a goal in his final regular-season home game as the Pittsburgh Penguins beat the Boston Bruins 3-1 Tuesday night.

The Penguins, 4-0-1 since Jaromir Jagr and Ron Francis returned from injury layoffs, forged a tie with the New York Rangers for fifth place in the Eastern Conference standings and moved within one point of fourth-place Florida.

Lemieux, who formally announced his retirement last weekend, put on a big show before a standing-room crowd, but missed all 11 shots - six in a second period that saw him take all but four of the Penguins' 10 shots.

Devils 2, Lightning 2

In Tampa, Florida, Martin Brodeur's shootout streak ended at three games, but New Jersey extended its lead in the Eastern Conference race to two points.

Jason Wiener scored at 11:43 of the second period to end Brodeur's career-best run at 213 minutes, 52 seconds. His best previous streak was 189:58 earlier this season.

Tuesday's results: Pittsburgh 3, Boston 1; New Jersey 2, Tampa Bay 2; Detroit 3, Calgary 2 (OT).

Faldo bookies' favorite for Masters

LONDON (AP) - British bookmakers, inundated with bets on Nick Faldo, have been forced to cut his odds on retaining his Masters title from 16-1 to 14-1.

Faldo is oow the clear favorite with Ladbrokes, which earlier this week listed him among six players at 16-1.

"Though we feel that this is a very open Masters, Nick Faldo has clearly emerged as the public's favorite," Ladbrokes spokesman Ian Wassell said. "We have taken a number of sizeable bets, including one of £1,000 and literally thousands of smaller bets." Faldo was also rated even-favorite to shoot a lower first-round score today than playing partner Tiger Woods.

Woods is listed at 16-1 to win the Masters, along with Tom Lehman, Greg Norman, Fred Couples and Nick Price.

CLASSIFIEDS

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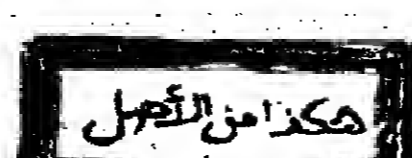
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Jerusalem

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CRITIC'S CHOICE

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT

Avner Biron leads his Israel Camerata Jerusalem in an evening of music by Bach...



The Kuijken brothers play Bach as the Authentica early-music series draws to a close.

ENGLISH THEATER

HELEN KAYE

Charming, funny, believable and thought-provoking - the Nefesh Theater's production of Make Yourself at Home...

TELEVISION

Channel 2 has reinstated the live-broadcast Crime Investigation together with its original host, Rafi Ginat...

MIME

HELEN KAYE

Slovakian mime Milan Sladek performs his multimedia mime show, Apocalypse, based on the Book of Numbers...

TV

CHANNEL 1

- 6:30 News flash
6:35 News in Arabic
8:45 Exercise Time
7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

- 8:00 Family Ties
8:45 Medicine Demystified
9:00 Arithmetic

MIDDLE EAST TV

- 7:00 TV Shop
14:30 The 700 Club
15:00 Gospel Bill

CHANNEL 2

- 8:15 Today's Programs
8:30 Tricky - cartoon
8:45 Breakfast Magazine

CHANNEL 3

- 7:00 Good Evening with Guy Pineas
7:30 Love Story with Yossi Siyas

JORDAN TV

- 14:00 Holy Koran
14:05 Cartoons
14:45 Curiosity Show

CHANNEL 4

- 11:30 Criminal Passion (1995)
14:40 Special report with a co-worker and will stop at nothing to win her love

CHANNEL 5

- 6:00 Open University (pt 9)
6:30 Picket Fences
6:50 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno

CHANNEL 6

- 6:00 Open University (pt 9)
6:30 Picket Fences
6:50 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno

World

- 17:30 French programs
22:00 News headlines
18:35 Parenthood

MOVIE CHANNEL (4)

- 11:30 Criminal Passion (1995)
14:40 Special report with a co-worker and will stop at nothing to win her love

CHANNEL 5

- 6:00 Open University (pt 9)
6:30 Picket Fences
6:50 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno

CHANNEL 6

- 6:00 Open University (pt 9)
6:30 Picket Fences
6:50 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno

CHANNEL 7

- 6:00 Open University (pt 9)
6:30 Picket Fences
6:50 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno

CHANNEL 8

- 6:00 Open University (pt 9)
6:30 Picket Fences
6:50 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno

CHANNEL 9

- 6:00 Open University (pt 9)
6:30 Picket Fences
6:50 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno

CHANNEL 10

- 6:00 Open University (pt 9)
6:30 Picket Fences
6:50 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno

CHANNEL 11

- 6:00 Open University (pt 9)
6:30 Picket Fences
6:50 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno

PRIME TIME TV

Table with 8 columns (1-8) and 8 rows (19:30-23:00) listing TV programs like News flash, News, Sunset Beach, etc.

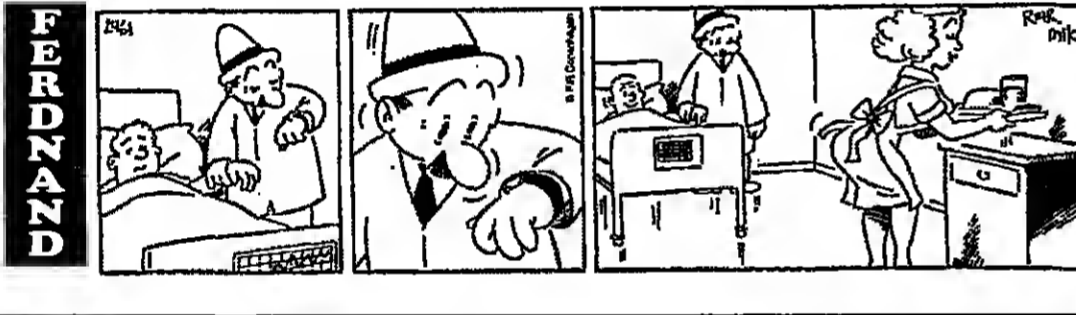
With James Caan, Shirley Knight and Robert Duvall. Show with Jay Leno (French, 1967) - a portrait of the Parisian Red Guards cell by Jean-Luc Godard

6:00 Open University (pt 9)
6:30 Picket Fences
6:50 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno

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6:30 Picket Fences
6:50 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno

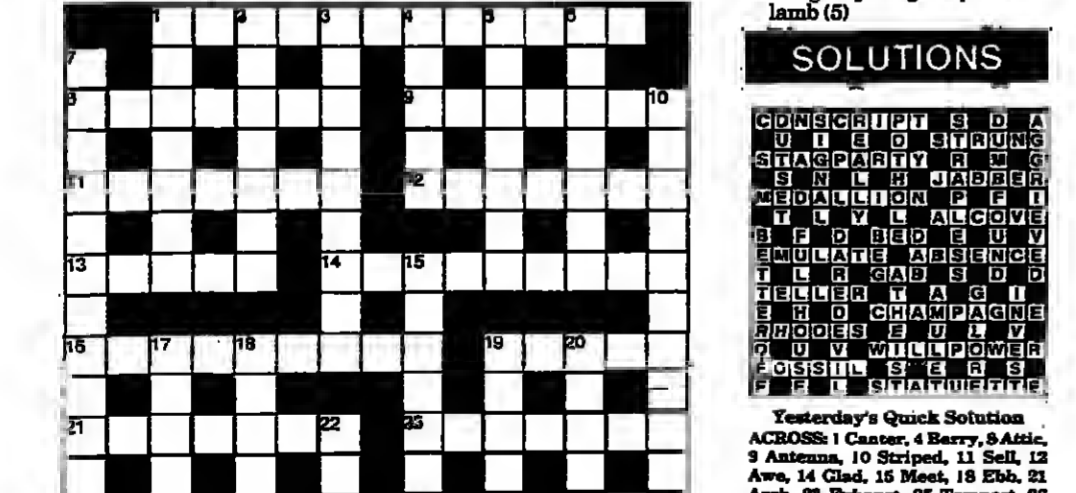
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6:00 Open University (pt 9)
6:30 Picket Fences
6:50 The Tonight Show with Jay Leno



CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS
1 Presented with sherry and dismissed (5,3,4)
B Go and offer enticements after a time (7)
9 Withdraw with a minor injury (7)



Yesterday's Quick Solution
ACROSS: 1 Canter, 4 Berry, 8 Atch, 9 Antenna, 10 Striped, 11 Sell, 12 Awa, 14 Glad, 15 Meet, 18 Ebb, 21 Area, 23 Schanus, 25 Tempest, 26 Seize, 27 Decay, 28 Assent.

- ACROSS
1 Doorpost (4)
3 24 hours hence (8)
9 Computer language (5)
10 eg Colonel (7)
11 Sink (3)
13 Exclude socially (9)
14 Andean vulture (6)
16 Unmoored (6)
18 Closest (9)
20 Counterfeit (3)
22 Georgian capital (7)
23 Strained (5)
25 Bounty (8)
26 Box (4)

SOLUTIONS

JERUSALEM
CINEMATH: QUE Michael Collins 4:30
The Truth About Cats and Dogs 7 + 18
Death Do Us Part 8:45 + Suzanne 9:45

MOVIES

Own 5, 7:30, 9:45 + Star Wars 5, 7:15, 9:45
+ Star Wars 5, 7:15, 9:45 + Screen 5, 7:30, 9:45 + Larry Flynt vs People 7:15

QUICK CROSSWORD

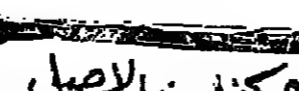
ACROSS
1 Doorpost (4)
3 24 hours hence (8)
9 Computer language (5)
10 eg Colonel (7)
11 Sink (3)
13 Exclude socially (9)
14 Andean vulture (6)
16 Unmoored (6)
18 Closest (9)
20 Counterfeit (3)
22 Georgian capital (7)
23 Strained (5)
25 Bounty (8)
26 Box (4)

MOVIES

Own 5, 7:30, 9:45 + Star Wars 5, 7:15, 9:45
+ Star Wars 5, 7:15, 9:45 + Screen 5, 7:30, 9:45 + Larry Flynt vs People 7:15

MOVIES

Own 5, 7:30, 9:45 + Star Wars 5, 7:15, 9:45
+ Star Wars 5, 7:15, 9:45 + Screen 5, 7:30, 9:45 + Larry Flynt vs People 7:15



Haifa man kills wife

A 54-year-old Haifa woman was stabbed to death by her husband early yesterday. The husband then surrendered himself to police.

The woman, Georgette Sitbon, was a nurse at the Herzliya-Horev Medical Center in Haifa and sold holiday apartments in the evenings. Until a few years ago, she worked in the ophthalmology department at Haifa's Rambam Hospital.

Her husband, Yosef, 56, is an unemployed electrician who became ill several years ago and had surgery for brain cancer in the United States. He was reportedly undergoing chemotherapy.

Neighbors said they had heard

quarreling from the home for around six years. They said they suspected that Yosef Sitbon was jealous of his wife's career, which kept her away from home until late at night. They said Georgette was outgoing and talented, while her husband was a strange, confused man.

The couple has three daughters. They were aware of the tension between their parents and tried to convince their mother to move in with them, according to police. She refused, however, insisting on staying with her ill husband.

Yesterday morning, Yosef Sitbon called one of his daughters

and said: "I killed Mom." He then called police and reported the murder.

While reenacting the murder for police, he said: "I loved her. She was my whole life. She didn't want to talk to me or sleep with me."

He said he stabbed her while she was sleeping and slit her throat.

Police said they believed the man had made preparations for the murder, as the door on the woman's bedroom, where she slept apart from her husband, had been removed, apparently to prevent her from barricading herself inside.

They also said there were signs of a struggle.

Woman has baby despite blood-clotting condition

By JUDY SIEGEL



The girl born yesterday to a woman with a blood condition.

A 21-year-old Jerusalem woman is reportedly the first in medical history to have delivered a healthy baby despite suffering from a severe blood-clotting condition that caused her to undergo a heart-bypass operation and to lose a fetus three years ago.

The haredi woman, whose name was not released, gave birth over the weekend to a healthy 2.7-kilo baby girl at Shaare Zedek Hospital. Doctors allowed the risky pregnancy

after deciding to give her very high-doses of anti-clotting drugs throughout.

The woman first reached Shaare Zedek in 1994, when, pregnant, she was brought into the emergency room with serious breathing problems, low blood pressure and cardiac insufficiency.

She was resuscitated, but was found to suffer from a pulmonary embolism that blocked both pulmonary arteries. She was rushed to surgery for an open-heart operation to remove the blockages; she survived and recovered but lost the baby.

A year later she came to the hospital's high-risk pregnancy unit headed by Dr. Arnon Samuelov to see if she could become pregnant again.

"We tried to find out why she had such difficulties in the previous pregnancy," he recalled. Tests showed that she suffered from protein-S deficiency, which causes over-clotting of the blood. Since pregnancy itself naturally increases the blood's tendency to clot, this posed a serious risk. Doctors gave her heparin in very high doses to thin her blood and monitored her pregnancy closely throughout.

WEATHER

| | |
|------------|-------|
| Haifa | 9-14 |
| Tiberias | 6-14 |
| Afula | 4-12 |
| Samarita | 1-8 |
| Tel Aviv | 9-15 |
| Jerusalem | 6-7 |
| Beer Sheva | 4-13 |
| Dead Sea | 12-20 |
| Galilee | 10-18 |

Forecast: Partly cloudy with rain from time to time.

Winning cards

The winning cards in yesterday's Mifal Hapayis Chance draw were the king of spades, 10 of hearts, king of diamonds and ace of clubs.

WJC fund-raising appeal renews hostility toward Swiss

By MARILYN HENRY

NEW YORK — The new era of cooperation between the Swiss and the World Jewish Congress was apparently short-lived. The latest fund-raising campaign by the WJC harks back to the days of confrontation over Switzerland's financial ties with the Nazis.

Never mind that there are Jewish-Swiss partnerships to investigate dormant accounts and to distribute separate "humanitarian" funds to Holocaust survivors. In a four-page "Dear Friend" letter of innuendo and omission, WJC President Edgar Bronfman assails the Swiss for stonewalling. As recently as February 14, though, the WJC and the Swiss vowed in New York to cooperate. "The mood has brightened," Bronfman said at the February news conference. "It was getting a little out of hand and emotional," he said of the public battles between Switzerland and the WJC.

The World Jewish Restitution Organization, which Bronfman also heads, was to meet in New York today to nominate the three Jewish candidates for the seven-member board of the humanitarian fund. The fund will distribute almost 300 million Swiss francs to needy Jewish and non-Jewish survivors.

In the meantime, the Swiss Foreign Ministry said it was prepared to nominate the board as soon as the WJRO officially named its candidates.

Swiss officials declined to comment on the letter.

The letter "is part of our membership drive and fund-raising," the WJC executive director, Elan Steinberg, said in a telephone interview.

It apparently is based on a strategy that says it is easier to raise money by focusing on "failures" than by tooting your own horn and boasting of your successes. And so, despite a year's worth of publicity about its efforts to gain compensation for survivors, the WJC does not mention its significant partnerships with the Swiss.

The humanitarian fund was omitted from the undated letter, which was received by thousands of people on American Jewish mailing lists in the last two weeks. Also missing was any reference to the Volcker Committee, a joint project of the WJRO and the Swiss Bankers Association to oversee an investigative audit of the Holocaust-era unclaimed and dormant accounts in Swiss banks.

Steinberg acknowledged the omissions, but he said, "The one thing that is important here is that the facts are correct."

"We just found Hitler's secret Swiss bank account," says the opening salvo in Bronfman's letter. That statement was based on a US intelligence document, Steinberg said.

However, the document he cited is not nearly as emphatic. Instead, it says, "It is quite possible that Hitler's



Edgar Bronfman - Assails Swiss (Isaac Hana)

foreign exchange revenues from his book *Mein Kampf* and foreign exchange revenues from the Nazi Party abroad are held at this Swiss bank." Other intelligence documents dispute the claim entirely.

The WJC also commended its British fellows, "who got their government to release a scathing report that listed the Swiss misrepresentations about the money they received and still retain from the Nazis."

The British Foreign Office report on Nazi gold was scathing and it set off a storm of publicity last September. It also had a stunning blunder that compelled the British in January to issue an embarrassing correction to its most sensational point. A member of the Swiss National Bank had admitted in 1946 that the SNB had received \$500 million in looted gold from Germany, the September report said. However, the Foreign Office later said, the report confused dollars and francs, and should have said 500 million Swiss francs.

The currency error inflated the amount of Nazi gold by a factor of 4, and the correction doused the report's sizzle.

The Nazi-plundered gold, according to the WJC, was used to reimburse European states that were overrun by Hitler "while not one penny went to Holocaust survivors or their families." That was only partly true.

The so-called "non-monetary gold" - stolen rings, jewelry - that was uncovered by the Allies was sent to the International Refugee Organization, which turned most of it over to the Jewish Agency and the Joint Distribution Committee for refugee relief and resettlement.

Bronfman's letter asks for a generous (and tax deductible) contribution to support the WJC's leadership "in this sad affair." He also asks donors to sign petitions to President Bill Clinton and Senator Al D'Amato, thanking them for their assistance in pressuring the Swiss banks.

But he did not suggest that US officials deal with a specifically American issue: that Washington, like the Swiss, apparently failed to turn over millions of dollars of heirless Jewish assets that had been seized in the US during the war.

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CUT 'n SAVE!

Aviv kitchen towels 8 pack
Instead of 10.49 NIS
Pay only 7.49 NIS

OFF

3 NIS

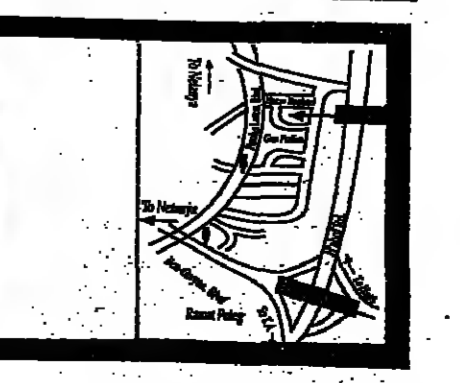
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